

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)

TITLE: Program 12 – Downward Spiraling

TUESDAY

OPEN

Do you feel tormented, my friend? I mean really torn up inside. You see yourself and you're in a downward spiral, and you don't know how to get out of it. And as you look at others you find yourself angry, you find yourself jealous, you find yourself full of torment. You say, "How am I going to get out of this?" The question is, do you want to get out of it? Because if you do there's a way. If not, it's only going to get worse. We'll talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

If you want to talk about torment then you look at the life of Saul. When we open the Bible to 1 Samuel chapter 18, we find that once again an evil spirit has come to torment this man. And you see how he is tormented and how it affects his relationships. Beloved, as I studied all of this and as I thought of this program I thought, you know there are so many people out there that are

tormented, absolutely tormented. They're full of anger. They're full of rage. They're horrible to be around. What do you do and how do you live with them or what if that is you? Well if that is you, then I can tell you this: that God had you tune into this program because God wants to speak to you. God wants to set you free. If it's not you, and someone that you're living with, or someone that you're around, or someone that you know at work, you've got to know that you need to pray for that person, because torment of that kind is torment of our own making. Now you may not like that, but if you look at the Word of God and you see what Saul has done in his life then you know this evil spirit has come upon him because of the choices that he has made. You see people that are tormented on the streets and they're tormented because of drugs, they're tormented because of alcohol. I've taken care of patients. I'm an old nurse and I've taken care of patients that have seen all sorts of weird things, that are screaming, that are hallucinating and my heart went out to them. But I will tell you that it was their doing because of the choices that they made. And you and I need to understand that the choices that we make determine our future. Well let's go to 1 Samuel, chapter 18. Now I hope that you are studying right along with me. I hope that you're eager to get into this chapter because you've read it, because you've gone through and because you've marked key repeated words such as anger and because you've marked sin and different words that we're telling you to mark. You say, "Hey, I'm new to this program and I don't know what you're talking about lady." Well this lady is talking about studying the Bible for yourself, discovering truth for yourself so that you can know God, so that you can have a knowledge of God. Do you realize that the Bible says that ["God's people perish because of a lack of knowledge?"] (Paraphrase, Hosea 4:6) And that word perish means they're lives are ruined. Saul's life was ruined because of a lack of knowledge, because he had the opportunity to know God. He heard the commandments of God, but he didn't obey them. So what are we doing to stop the lack of knowledge in this land? What are we doing to help people discover truth for themselves? Well that's what this

program, Precepts for Life, is all about. We're providing you with a study guide that you can download that has the scriptural text there so that you and I are reading from the same translation of the Bible and so that you can mark the text. If you're skittish about marking your Bible at this point, and you haven't given in and bought a *New Inductive Study Bible* that will show you how to do that, then just download this. And you can go to preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com. And as you go there, by the way, you can find out about all the products that we have for children, for teenagers, and for adults. We have one mission and that is to establish people in God's Word, so that you will know truth for yourself. We are looking for people that are looking for truth and are willing to discipline themselves in order to discover it. Well Saul didn't discipline himself. And he didn't discover truth, and as a result he's tormented. Remember now in 1 Samuel, chapter 18, David has defeated the Philistine. He has put the Philistine to death. David has come home from that great victory and the women all along the way in the cities have sung that Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands. And we know that jealousy just formed right in Saul's heart. And he said, "Now what's going to happen, he's going to have the kingdom next." And so we see that he is looking, verse 9, **"...at David with suspicion from that day on."** And it says, **"...it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God..."** **"...an evil spirit from God..."** (1 Samuel 18:10a) You say, "What kind of a God is that?" Well what you have to understand is God is a sovereign God. And I'm going to use my hands for a triangle and just imagine them up really high in the heavens. That's God. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit sitting on His throne, [ruling and doing His will,] as Daniel 4 says, [among the angels of heaven, the inhabitants of heaven and the **"inhabitants of earth."**] (Paraphrase, Daniel 4:35) And so God is sovereign over all the hosts. He is JEHOVAH SABAOTH. We've seen this name before and it means He's the Lord of Hosts. He's in charge. Everyone and everything is under His dominion. So when it's an evil spirit sent from the Lord, then it is

an evil spirit that wants to do evil, that has chosen to follow Satan and that has been released by God to do evil to Saul. And so this “evil spirit from God,” with permission of God has come **“mightily upon Saul.”** Now what I would do is I would underline *mightily*. [“He has come *mightily* upon Saul.”] And what is the result? **“...he raved in the midst of the house...,”** and it says, **“...while David was playing the harp with his hand, as usual; and a spear was in Saul’s hand.” (1 Samuel 18:10)** And we’ve already read this in our last lesson. But Saul just picks up that spear and he says, **“...[I’m going to] pin David to the wall....”(18:11b)** Well, because of the grace of God and because God is sovereign, and He’s ruling over all, and **“...He does according to His will [among] the [armies] of heaven And...the inhabitants of the earth; And [because] none can stay [God’s] hand and [because none can] say to Him, ‘What doest Thou?’” (Daniel 4:35, KJV)** That’s Daniel, chapter 4:34 and 35. Because of that, those spears do not put David to the wall. Remember David has been anointed by Samuel, the prophet. Remember, David is to be the next king over Israel. The time is not yet, but he’s already been anointed by Samuel and he is to be the next king. And so God is protecting him. And you can know this: that God is going to protect you and God is going to keep you and no one’s going to take your life until God is ready, until it is God’s time. [“He has numbered your days,] **when as yet there was none of them.”** (Paraphrased, Psalm 139:16) And so you don’t need to fear man; you only need to fear God. Remember: [“Don’t fear man who is able to kill the body, but fear God who is able to cast both body and soul into hell.”] (Paraphrase, Matthew 10:28) Saul hasn’t been cast into hell, but he’s living in a state of hell. This anger and this jealousy is so bad and as we saw in our last program, he decides to take his daughter Merab and offer her to David because he wants to get a case against David, and David’s a commander. Well David, says, [“Oh, who am I?” You know I am too little, I am too small to marry your daughter.] (Paraphrase, 1 Samuel 18:18) And that’s where we left off. We left off with David, even after this great victory, living in a humility knowing that victory and power and

deliverance come from God, and knowing that it was God who delivered the Philistine into his hand, the Philistine by the name of Goliath. All right, so now in verse 20 is where we left off. **“Now Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved David. [And] When they told Saul, the thing was agreeable to him.”(1Samuel 18:20)** Now watch, this is a man that is raging. This is a man that is angry. This is a man that is jealous of David. This is a man that keeps being tormented by an evil spirit because of the choices that he made. And it says, **“Saul thought, ‘I will give her to him that she may become a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.’ Therefore Saul said to David, ‘For a second time you may be my son-in-law today.’ Then Saul commanded his servants, ‘Speak to David secretly....’” (18:21-22a)** One of the things that you will notice that happens is when a person is raging, when a person is being tormented, they are crafty; they are deceitful; they are manipulative and this is exactly what is happening here. Saul is crafty and he’s manipulative. And so he says, **“...‘Speak to David secretly...,’”** telling his servants this, **“...‘Behold, the King delights in you, and all [of] his servants love you; now therefore, [go ahead] become the king’s son-in-law.’ So Saul’s servants spoke these words to David. But David says, ‘Is it trivial in your sight to become the king’s son-in-law, since I am a poor man and lightly esteemed?’ [And] the servants of Saul reported to him according to [all] these words which David spoke.” (18:22b-24)** What you’ve got is you’ve got the spies running and doing Saul’s bidding. They they run to David, they tell him what is said. They go back to Saul; they tell Saul David said. You know people that are like that. You know people that are involved in this kind of manipulation and go between, but it’s really not a good go-between. It’s a seductive one to accomplish a deadly purpose. **“[And] The servants of Saul reported to him according to these [things] which David spoke. [And] Saul then said, ‘Thus you shall say to David, “The king does not desire any dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king’s enemies.”’ Now Saul planned to make David**

fall by the hand of the Philistines. [And] When his servants told David these words, it pleased David to become the king's son-in-law. Before the days had expired...,”(18:24-26 So he gave him so much time and he says, “Hey listen, you can earn my daughter. You can earn her. All I want are the foreskins of one hundred Philistines.” (Paraphrased) Now remember when he talked about Goliath, “**...this uncircumcised Philistine...**[is defying]**...the armies of the living God?” (1 Samuel 17:26b)** And so he knows, I mean, if you're going to bring home the foreskins you're going to kill those men and it's going to be a mighty battle, and it's going to be a mighty, mighty struggle. And he knows that he's going to lose David in this. He will have his way. Will it work? We'll talk about it after the break.

PART TWO

A hundred foreskins of a hundred Philistines, it's all in a day's work! (Laughs) Well, I'm not going to tell you what happened yet, because what I want you to see is the murder that is in Saul's heart. I want you to catch the murder and the jealousy and how jealousy has enraged this man, because I want you to understand what happens when you and I make the wrong choices, when we don't listen to God, when we decide we're going to walk our own way. Now if you've studied Saul with me you know that. Saul was about doing his own thing. He would hear the commandment of God, but he would not obey it. Or he would hear the commandment of God and he would partially obey it. And he would say everything is fine. He did that with Agag. He did that with that Amalekite king that God said put to death, but he didn't put him to death. He spared him and he spared the best of all the spoil and he said, “You know, I have done what God has told me.” This is when you get in trouble, Beloved. You get in trouble when you think, now listen carefully, when you think you can go against God and get away with it. When you think that you can go against God and get away with it, you're in trouble. Because what you're doing is instead of being obedient to God,

what you're doing is you're thinking that you can do what you want to do. It's a matter of the flesh. I want you to go to Galatians, chapter 6 for just a minute and I want you to see what he has to say. In Galatians, chapter 6 it says in verse 7, **"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; [God is not mocked] what...a man sows, this he will also reap."**(Galatians 6:7) This torment has come because he has not listened to God. Maybe you're in torment. Maybe you're angry at someone. Well, if you would forgive, then the torment would go away. You say, "But if I forgive them, who's going to get even with them?" God. Because God judges evil, and God will get even with them. But it is not your job, because you're not God. You say, "Well that person has stolen my reputation or you know, I was the top one in that business, and now I'm no longer the top one in the business." That's jealousy, and that's of the flesh. You see, when you and I sow to the flesh; of the flesh we will reap corruption. Listen to what he says. **"For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption....,"** (6:8a) And so if you're in torment, if you're in anguish, then in all probability it's because you don't know the Word of God, or you don't know God and you're not going to God and you're not doing what God says. Because this Book has the answers for all of life. And it has the answers to keep you in peace even in the midst of the storm. He puts you in peace in the eye of the storm. And so what we see is murder in his heart. Now I want you to look at another passage in Galatians, chapter 5. I want you to see that what is happening, and you're going to see this contrast throughout. You're going to see Saul walking in the flesh. You're going to see David walking in the Spirit. If you remember David was anointed and the Spirit of God came upon him and remained on him. (1 Samuel 16:12-13) If you remember the Spirit of God, and because of this time, and because it's Old Testament times, the Spirit of God departed from Saul because of his disobedience, because he would not listen to God, because he did not want God to rule his life, because he would not bow the knee to God and honor God as God. (1 Samuel 16:14) So you're going to see Saul as a picture of the flesh. You're

going to see David as a picture of walking in the Spirit. And when you come to Galatians, chapter 5, it says this, that **“...the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh....”** It says, **“...these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do...[what] you please.”** (Galatians 5:17) And then he says, **“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are....,”** now listen carefully, **“...immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery...,”(5:19-20a)** You’re going to find Saul going into sorcery later. **“Enmities.”** Enmities are real, real hatred against another person. This is what you see in Saul for David, and it only gets worse, and you’re going to see it get worse. **“Strife.”** This is strife, he’s angry; he’s trying to pin him against the wall. **“Jealousy.”** He’s jealous of him. **“Outbursts of anger,”** and we see this anger come upon him and we see him trying to pin him to the wall. **“...disputes, dissensions, factions...,”(5:20b)** he’s trying to divide. Then **“...envying[s]...,”** and then **“...drunkenness, carousing, and things like [this], of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things [shall] not inherit the kingdom of [heaven].” (5:21)** Well this is Saul’s lifestyle. And so what you see is you see that murder in his heart. You see that jealousy is in his heart, envying and strife and these disputes. Well, where does jealousy have its roots? Well when you go to the book of James and you look at the two wisdoms that he talks about in the book of James, in James chapter 3, you find that there’s a wisdom from above and there’s a wisdom from beneath. And so in the wisdom from beneath it says, **“...if you have bitter jealousy...,”** this is verse 14, **“...and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes...from above...,”** It has not come from God. **“...but [it] is earthly, [it is] natural, [it is] demonic.”(James 3:14-15)** It says, **“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”(3:16)** Well this is exactly what was going on in Saul’s life. There was disorder and there was every evil thing. In Proverbs chapter 6, in verse 34 it says this: **“...jealousy enrages a man...,”(Proverbs 6:34a)** And

you see Saul in a rage because he's jealous of David. And what you see also in Proverbs 27, verse 4 is that [you can't stand before jealousy.]

(Paraphrased) In other words, there's no weapon that you have against jealousy. Why? Because that jealousy has come from that person's heart, and their heart is evil. Their heart is demonic. Well this is what Saul was all about. His heart was full of murder. He wanted to get rid of David. He was jealous. He was enraged against him and you'll see as we go on that this jealousy has so consumed him that there's no placating Saul at all. Well, David goes out, a hundred foreskins, a hundred Philistines, all in today's work. What does he do? Well, it says, **"David rose up...,"** verse 27, **"...and went, he and his men, and struck down two hundred men among the Philistines...."** You got it. **"...Then David brought [back] their foreskins...,**" 200. Saul asked for a hundred; he gave him two. **"...and they gave them in full number to the king, [so] that he might become the king's son-in-law. So Saul gave him Michal his daughter for a [his] wife. [And] When Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Micah, Saul's daughter, loved him, then Saul was even more afraid of David. Thus Saul was David's enemy continually."**(1 Samuel 18:27-29) So what do you do, Beloved, if you're full of rage and anger and that? You go to God and open the Bible to the gospel of John, and say, "God, I need You. I want out of this." And if you want out of this, Beloved, and you start reading the Word of God, He's going to take the blinders off of your eyes, and He's going to turn you from darkness to light. He's gonna turn you from rage to peace. He's going to give you the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. And if you don't want it, you're just gonna continue the way you are. How sad!