



insecurity



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- 10:21ff — Saul is notably absent, at first, from his own coronation!



From Erik Cooper, blogger for thestonetable.org:

“Outside, Saul was the perfect leader. Inside, Saul was terrified.

Saul was understandably overwhelmed. A few chapters earlier he was minding his own business... Now he was to become Israel’s first king? I would’ve been scared too. But as the story of Saul unfolds through the remainder of 1 Samuel, we see this leader who once hid in the physical baggage never address his emotional and spiritual “baggage.” Saul never dealt with his insecurities, he lived into them...”

“...King Saul went from celebrated young leader to fearful, manipulative, vengeful, and murderous psychopath. He tried to pin David to the wall with a spear on multiple occasions. In a panic, he sought advice from a demonic medium. He made strategic battle mistakes because he got ahead of God and thought he had to be the hero. He even threatened to kill his own son because of a rash vow he made in front of his men.

Saul led from his fear, and these unrepentant insecurities didn't just make him a bad leader, they turned him into a dangerous human being. When I read stories like Saul's, I try to remember that I am not immune to the baggage that comes from being a sinful man. If not for Jesus, I am capable of horrific things. And even worse, I'm capable of spinning those horrific choices as good and right and necessary. My insecurities deceive even me.”

King Saul — descent into madness

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- 1 Samuel 15 — Failure to deal with the Amalekites as directed further exacerbated his alienation from God and Samuel.
- He frequently experienced bouts of madness, induced by spiritual forces.





Goliath

King Saul — jealousy & rage

- 1 Samuel 18 — David prospered in everything he did for Saul. A stout warrior, brilliant tactician, and truly humble servant of God and king, David should have been the least of Saul's problems. But observe the souring of their relationship due to Saul's insecurity (vv. 1, 7-9, 14-16, 28-30).



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- 1 Samuel 21-22 — He believes the priests at Nob betrayed him, and has them all killed.





Eventually, Saul's obsession with apprehending David leaves an opportunity for the Philistines to engage the army of Israel in battle. Saul's defeat is decisive, and he is left mortally wounded and begging for someone to end his life.



So, what's the lesson?

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- Leaves us feeling threatened by others' talents and achievements, not joyful over collective victory.

A small yellow figurine of a person wearing a hat, standing on a light-colored, textured surface. The figurine is positioned on the left side of the image, casting a shadow to its left.

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- Leaves us feeling threatened by others' talents and achievements, not joyful over collective victory.
- Makes us deaf to quality criticism. We become defensive, refusing to accept responsibility for our mistakes.
- Keeps us from success. Ironically, Saul always had the tools at his disposal to be a successful king (valiant warriors, intelligent advisors, physical abilities), but self-doubt became a self-fulfilling prophecy of failure.