引言 INTRODUCTION

Jealousy is a deadly poison that erodes a relationship. Eventually, the one who will be hurt the most by your jealousy is yourself. Well-known evangelist Pastor D. L. Moody once told a story about an eagle that was jealous about another bird that could fly better. One day the bird saw a hunter with a bow and arrow. It said to him, "I wish you would bring down that eagle up there." The man said he could if he had some feathers for his arrow. The jealous eagle then pulled one feather out from its wing. The arrow was shot, but it did not reach high enough. The first eagle pulled out another feather, then another, until it lost so many feathers that it could no longer fly. The archer took advantage of the situation, turned around, and caught the helpless bird. Jealousy made the bird a victim. The stories in 1 Samuel 18 is about Saul's jealousy over David. After the defeat of Goliath the giant, a shepherd boy became a national hero. King Saul could have seized the momentum and strengthened the morale of his army. Instead, Saul allowed jealousy to further expose his weakness. Jealously can dissolve unity in a team. But God can make something beautiful out of people's jealousy if we commit ourselves to Him.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 嫉妒的起因 The Causes for Jealousy

Let us begin by considering the causes for jealousy. Saul was jealous because he craved for people's attention. Verse 6-7 describe people's warm welcome of the troop: 6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Verse 6 says people came to welcome their king. However, they soon shifted their attention to David with the song. Everyone cheered, except for one person. We see Saul's reactions in verse 8-9: 8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 And Saul eyed David from that day on. Saul turned a red eye to David because he received all the attention. The comparison in the lyrics was just an exaggeration. But to a sensitive person like Saul, the message was not well-received. Comparison seldom produces a positive result. We feel prideful when we have something better than others. Our heart turns sour when we realize that someone is more superior to us in other ways. We should put our attention on God instead. He gives us a mind to think, hands to work and opportunities to try. Then we will thank God in our success and setback. Saul did not only crave after attention, he also craved after people's affection. Among the people who showed affection to David was Saul's son Jonathan. Look at verse 3-4: 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. Jonathan was perhaps ten years older than David. He liked David so much that he gave away his war attire and weapons. We read earlier that at that time weapons were rare because the Philistines controlled the supply of iron. Jonathan gave away

something very precious to him. Good friends share what they have. Little kids share their candies or cookies. They take turn and get a bite of everything. The best way to make friends is to be a friend first. Show genuine kindness to others and offer help to them. Besides Jonathan, everyone liked David! Verse 5 says: And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. People loved David for being a capable leader. He was described as "successful" four times in this chapter. The Hebrew word means someone who prospers for being wise. Leading a troop to war requires one's brain more than his arms. Why could David be so successful? Verse 14 tells us: And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. God made David successful. Verses 12 and 28 tell us that Saul was aware of that too. God's Spirit had left Saul and He was now with David. Not getting people's approval hurt Saul's feeling. Jealousy can happen anywhere, even in a church! It happens when we focus on ourselves. Will you be jealous if others can sing better, have flourishing careers or their kids go to famous colleges? Do not forget that God is the source of our blessings. He just blesses each of us in different ways. There will be no more jealousy when you can celebrate people's accomplishments from your heart. When coworkers serve you, sincerely thank them for their efforts and faithfulness. Ultimately, we should give all the glory to God.

2. 嫉妒的禍害 The Curses of Jealousy

The cause for Saul's jealousy was his pride. When Saul could not overcome his weakness, his jealousy led to curses. In other words, jealousy results in destruction. We see two curses that haunted Saul. The first one was fear. Verse 15 says: And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. Why was Saul afraid of David? Saul gradually realized that David was the person God chose to replace him. A teenager showed signs of courage, strength and leadership. People all loved David. What kind of leader would he become? All that insecurity further compounded Saul's jealousy. He saw David as a competitor instead of a loyal servant. We can get jealous when we focus on ourselves. There will be no jealousy when we see one person's success as the team's success. We need each other because we complement each other. Besides fear, Saul's jealousy also led to a curse of **hatred**. Look at verse 17: Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the Lord's battles." For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." Saul hated David so much that he planned to use the Philistines to get rid of him! He even offered his daughter as a trap. Becoming Saul's son-in-law was actually part of the reward for defeating Goliath. But David got nothing. Saul did not fulfill his promise again. Verse 19 says Saul gave Merab to another man. How could the Israelites trust their king if he did not do what he said? Later on, people informed Saul that Michal, another daughter of his, had a crush on David. Saul then cooked up the same wicked scheme. Read verse 21: Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall now be my son-in-law." Saul asked officials to speak to David in private that the king really liked him. All that sweet talk surely energized David. Saul then specified the cost for getting his daughter in verse 25: Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies." Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. Saul thought that would be a monumental task to get done. But the passages says David and his men were able to

kill double the number of Philistines! The king had no excuse this time. Hatred is a horrific curse. If a person does not remove anger from his heart, he may want to remove the person he is angry about. The first murder case in the Bible was a result of hatred. Cain was mad about his brother Abel because God found favor in Abel's offering. God warned Cain in Genesis 4:6-7 – 6 The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." Sin will become a beast to devour us if we do not tame it. Many violent behaviors in our society are results of uncontrollable anger. I can think of road-rage, fighting with words and even with fists and weapons. We need to plug a water leak before a dam gives in. A time-out actually works well for kids and adults. We ask God to help us cool down and reassess the situation. Am I mad about people or am I just frustrated that things do not go my way? Does my negative emotion help achieve the goal? What will be a godly way to resolve the situation? I am sure we will be less angry if we can go through those questions calmly. God equips us as peace-makers instead of peace-breakers. By God's grace, we can build rather than break a relationship.

3. 嫉妒的解救 The Cure to Jealousy

Saul was a jealous man. Jealousy turned him into a wicked person. If pride is the deep-rooted cause for jealousy, then humility is the best cure. Pride drives us to reveal ourselves, but humility enables us to conceal ourselves. David was a humble person like that. He responded with humility when presented the opportunity twice to marry Saul's daughters. David says to Saul in verse 18: ... "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" Then again he tells the officials in verse 23: ... "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?" David felt undeserved of such a great prize. He understood that there was a huge gap in the social status between the two families. It was more than getting a wife. He could also enter into the royal family. If David was an ambitious person, he could have seized his fame and built a career for himself. He could have started a sling-shot school to train apprentices. He could even have rallied support to overthrow the king! Instead, David remained as a harpist to serve Saul. Nowadays, it is not uncommon for young athletes, actors and singers to get prideful when they became celebrities overnight. They buy mansions, ride in shiny cars and dress in luxury. They forget their humble roots. In contrast, some of their peers use their platforms and publicity to bless the community. They gladly donate their wealth and set up charities. David did not seek after his own reputation. He did not fight for his own rights. Instead, he fought for his countrymen and the glory of God. David stayed faithful to Saul because he stayed faithful to God. David did not quit even when his madman boss tried to kill him. In fact, David continued to respect Saul even when Saul kept pursuing him later. David understood that Saul was a king anointed by God. David knew that God had a wonderful plan for him. But he waited patiently for God's timing. He did not take business in his own hands. God delights to use humble people like David. Another humble Biblical character I can think of is John the Baptist. He knew God called him to pave the way for the coming Savior. Jesus finally arrived. John's disciples told him that a lot of people went to Jesus. John was not jealous about it. He replies in John 3:28-30 that: 28 "You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now

complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease." John describes Jesus as the groom. John saw himself as an assistant in the wedding. All that he did was to prepare for the groom to come. Now Jesus was here. John felt glad instead of sad. Jesus should go under the spotlight. We can be humble if we truly see Jesus as our Lord and we as His servants. Sometimes we treat our face as the most important muscle in our body. We yearn for people's approval. We take it personal when facing criticism. We feel that we do good things in vain if there is no recognition. But God sees our heart more important than our face. If our attitude is right, so will our actions. Sometimes we use the world's standards to evaluate our so-called success. We can be jealous about some mega churches if we think bigger means better. The fact is that God carves out a different niche for us. There are some unique things we as a Chinese church can do more effectively. God never expects us to be famous. He just asks us to be faithful. Jesus called us to make disciples for His Kingdom, not to build monuments for our castles. It does not matter if few people knows us and no one remembers us after we are gone. The most important thing is for people to know Jesus through what we do. We give it all to the Lord every day for the duties He entrusts us. We will have joy instead of jealousy if we strive to live that way.

結論 CONCLUSION

David was a victim of Saul's jealousy. Instead of fighting back, David submitted to the Lord. David looked beyond his own circumstances and focused on what God had to accomplish. About a thousand years after David, Jesus also suffered because of jealousy. Even Pilate the Roman Governor knew that the religious leader wanted to get rid of Jesus due to their jealousy of Him. Rather than seeking justice for Himself, Jesus submitted to the Father. In doing so, Jesus turned a wicked scheme of men into a victory. God can make something beautiful out of people's jealousy if we commit ourselves to Him. There was an interesting story about F.B. Meyer and Campbell Morgan, two well-known pastors in England from the last century. At one time, Meyer was jealous about Morgan because Morgan's church had a bigger attendance. The two pastors often preached together at the same conferences. Meyer was upset that some audience sat at Morgan's preaching but were absent when he spoke. Jealousy kept brewing in Meyer's heart. He soon got into the habit of criticizing Morgan's sermons, rather than appreciating his gifts. Meyer realized the harm of his jealousy. Therefore, he prayed that God would change his heart. Meyer also started praying that God would bless Morgan's ministries. Gradually, there was no more jealousy. Meyer even publicly praised about Morgan's preaching. In the end, God blessed Meyer's church too. Morgan's church was so crowded that some people went to Meyer's church. God turned a lose-lose battle into a win-win outcome.

引言 INTRODUCTION

嫉妒是破壞關係的致命毒藥。最終,被嫉妒傷害最深的人將會是你自己。著名的佈道家慕迪牧師曾經講過一個故事。有一隻老鷹嫉妒另一隻比牠飛得更高的鳥。有一天,這頭鷹看見一個拿著弓箭的獵人,就對他說:「我希望你能把那隻鳥打下來。」獵人說可以,但是他的箭需要一些羽毛。嫉妒的老鷹便從牠的翅膀上拔下一根羽毛。箭射出去了,但是射得不夠高。於是,老鷹再拔出另一根羽毛,然後又拔出一根,直到牠失去了太多羽毛,再也無法飛翔。弓箭手趁機轉身,抓住了這只無助的鳥。牠成為自己嫉妒的受害者。撒母耳記上 18 章的故事是關於掃羅對大衛的嫉妒。當大衛打敗巨人歌利亞之後,一個牧羊童成為了民族英雄。掃羅王本來可以趁這個機會鼓起軍隊士氣。但是,掃羅讓嫉妒進一步暴露了他的弱點。嫉妒可以瓦解團隊的合一。但是,如果我們將自己交託給神,祂能夠從人的嫉妒中創造出美好的事情。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 嫉妒的起因 The Causes for Jealousy

讓我們首先來思考嫉妒的起因。驕傲是掃羅的一大缺點。首先,他渴望得到別 人的注意。第6-7節描述人們熱烈歡迎軍隊凱旋而歸:6大衛打死了那非利士 人,同眾人回來的時候,婦女們從以色列各城裏出來,歡歡喜喜,打鼓擊磬, 歌唱跳舞,迎接掃羅王。7眾婦女舞蹈唱和,說:「掃羅殺死千千,大衛殺死萬 萬。」第6節說人們出來迎接他們的王。然而,他們很快就把注意力轉移到大 衛的身上。所有人都歡呼起來,除了一個人之外。我們在第8-9節看到掃羅的 反應:8掃羅甚發怒,不喜悅這話,就說:「將萬萬歸大衛,千千歸我,只剩下 王位沒有給他了。」9從這日起,掃羅就怒視大衛。掃羅對大衛眼紅,因為他 得到眾人的注意。歌詞中的比較只是一種誇張的形容。但對於像掃羅這樣敏感 的人來說,便覺得難以接受。比較很少會產生正面的結果。當我們在某些方面 比別人更好的時候,我們便會驕傲。但是當我們在其他方面比不上人家時,我 們就會心酸。我們應該把焦點放在神身上。祂給了我們思考的頭腦、工作的雙 手和嘗試的機會。然後我們才會在成功和挫敗中感謝神。掃羅不只渴望得到別 人的注意,他也渴望得到別人的**喜愛**。在群眾之中,連掃羅的兒子約拿單也喜 愛大衛。請看第3-4節:3約拿單愛大衛如同愛自己的性命,就與他結盟。4約 拿單從身上脫下外袍,給了大衛,又將戰衣、刀、弓、腰帶都給了他。約拿單

大概比大衛大十歲。他非常欣賞大衛,甚至把自己的戰衣和武器都送給了他。 我們之前說過,當時武器很稀有,因為非利士人控制了鐵的供應。約拿單贈送 對他來說非常珍貴的東西。好朋友會分享他們的好東西。小孩子會分享他們的 糖果或餅乾,甚至他們輪流咬一口一口地吃。要找到朋友的最好方法是先成為 朋友。例如對別人表現出真誠的善意並為他們提供幫助。除了約拿單,所有人 都喜歡大衛!第5節說:掃羅無論差遣大衛往何處去,他都做事精明。掃羅就 立他作戰士長,眾百姓和掃羅的臣僕無不喜悅。人們喜歡大衛,因為他是一位 能幹的領袖。在這一章中,大衛四次被描述為「做事精明」。這個形容在希伯來 文是指一個人因為有智慧而有成就。帶領士兵打仗更需要頭腦而不只是雙手。 為什麼大衛能如此成功?第14節告訴我們:大衛做事無不精明,耶和華也與他 同在。是神使大衛成功。第12和28節告訴我們掃羅也知道這一點。神的靈離 開掃羅,現在與大衛同在。得不到人們的認可傷害了掃羅的自尊。嫉妒可以發 生在任何地方,甚至在教會裡!當我們專注於自己時,就可能產生嫉妒。如果 別人會唱歌,事業有成,孩子上名校,你會嫉妒嗎?不要忘記神是我們祝福的 源頭。神只是以不同的方式祝福我們每個人。當你能衷心地慶祝別人的成就 時,就不會有嫉妒了。當同工為你服務時,真誠地感謝他們的努力和忠心。最 終,我們應該將所有的榮耀歸給神。

2. 嫉妒的禍害 The Curses of Jealousy

掃羅嫉妒的原因是由於他的驕傲。當掃羅無法克服自己的弱點時,他的嫉妒帶 來了禍害。 換句話說,他的嫉妒導致破壞。我們看到困擾掃羅的兩個禍害。第 一個是恐懼。第15節說:掃羅見大衛做事精明,就甚怕他。掃羅為什麼怕大 衛?掃羅漸漸明白大衛是神揀選來代替他的人。一個少年表現出勇氣、力量和 領導才能。人們都愛大衛。他以後會成為什麼樣的領袖?所有這些不安全感進 一步增加掃羅的嫉妒。他將大衛視為競爭對手,而不是忠心的僕人。當我們只 看到自己時,我們便會嫉妒。如果我們將別人的成功視為團隊的成功時,就不 會有嫉妒了。我們需要一起同工,因為我們是互補的。除了恐懼,掃羅的嫉妒 也導致了<u>仇恨</u>的禍害。請看第17節:<u>掃羅對大衛說:「我將大女兒米拉給你為</u> 妻,只要你為我奮勇,為耶和華爭戰。」掃羅心裏說:「我不好親手害他,要藉 非利士人的手害他。」掃羅恨大衛,打算用非利士人除掉他!他甚至用他的女 兒當作陷阱。成為掃羅的女婿,其實是打敗歌利亞的部分獎勵。但是大衛什麼 都沒有拿到。現在掃羅再次開空頭支票。第19節說掃羅將米拉給了另一個人。 如果王不是言出必行,誰還會信任他?後來,有人告訴掃羅,他的另一個女兒 米甲喜歡大衛。掃羅隨後又使用同樣的詭計。請看第21節:掃羅心裏說:「我 將這女兒給大衛,作他的網羅,好藉非利士人的手害他。」所以掃羅對大衛 說:「你今日可以第二次作我的女婿。」掃羅叫官員私下告訴大衛,王真的很喜 歡他。那些甜言蜜語無疑使大衛心花怒放。掃羅接著在第25節列出娶他女兒的 聘禮:掃羅說:「你們要對大衛這樣說:『王不要甚麼聘禮,只要一百非利士人 的陽皮,好在王的仇敵身上報仇。』」掃羅的意思要使大衛喪在非利士人的手 裏。掃羅以為那是一項艱鉅的任務。但是經文說大衛和他的下屬竟然殺死了兩 倍數目的非利士人!這次王沒有藉口了。仇恨是一種可怕的禍害。如果一個人 不從他的心中除掉怒氣,他可能想要去除掉惹他生氣的人。聖經中的第一宗謀 殺案就是仇恨的結果。該隱對他的兄弟亞伯生氣,因為神看中了亞伯的供物。 神在創世記 4:6-7 中警告該隱:6 耶和華對該隱說:「你為甚麼發怒呢?你為甚 麼變了臉色呢?7你若行得好,豈不蒙悅納?你若行得不好,罪就伏在門前。 它必戀慕你,你卻要制伏它。」如果我們不馴服罪,它就會像野獸那樣把我們 吃掉。社會上的許多暴力事件都是無法控制憤怒的結果。例如有些人用言語甚 至用拳頭和武器打架。我們需要在堤壩倒塌之前堵住漏水的破口。暫時走開其 實對小孩和大人都很有效。我們求神幫助我們冷靜下來並重新評估情況。我是 對別人生氣,還是我因為得不到結果而感到沮喪?我的負面情緒是否有助於達 成目標?如何用神看為合宜的方法解決問題?如果我們能夠冷靜地回答這些問 題,我相信我們就沒有怒氣了。神裝備我們建立和平,而不是破壞和平。靠著 神的恩典,我們可以建立而不是破壞關係。

3. 嫉妒的解救 The Cure to Jealousy

掃羅是一個嫉妒的人。嫉妒使他變成一個邪惡的人。如果驕傲是嫉妒的根源, 那麼謙卑就是最好的解救方法。驕傲使我們炫耀自己,但謙卑使我們隱藏自 己。大衛就是這樣一個謙卑的人。當他有兩次機會娶掃羅的女兒時,他都謙卑 地回應。大衛在第18節對掃羅說:...大衛對掃羅說:「我是誰,我是甚麼出 身,我父家在以色列中是何等的家,豈敢作王的女婿呢?」然後他在第23節告 訴官員:...「你們以為作王的女婿是一件小事嗎?我是貧窮卑微的人。」大衛 覺得自己不配那麼大的獎賞。他明白,兩家的社會地位差距很大。這不只是娶 老婆而已,他能夠成為皇室人員。如果大衛是個有野心的人,他大可以抓住自 己的名聲,為自己開創事業。例如開辦一所用機弦的學校來收徒弟。他甚至可 以召集同黨推翻掃羅!但是,大衛繼續為掃羅彈琴。如今,許多年輕的運動 員、演員和歌星在一夜成名之後便不可一世。他們買豪宅,開名車,穿著華 麗。他們忘記了他們卑微的起步點。但是另外有些名人利用他們的平台和知名 度來服務社會。他們慷慨地揭錢並成立慈善機構。大衛沒有追求自己的名聲。 他沒有爭取自己的權利。他是為同胞和神的榮耀而爭戰。大衛忠於掃羅,因為 他忠於神。雖然他的瘋子老闆企圖要殺他,大衛的心態也沒有改變。事實上, 當後來掃羅不斷追捕大衛時,大衛仍然尊重掃羅。大衛明白掃羅是神所膏立的 君王。大衛知道神對他有一個奇妙的計劃,他必須耐心等候神的時機。大衛沒

有自作主張來行事。神喜歡使用像大衛這樣謙卑的人。我能想到的另一個謙卑 的聖經人物是施洗約翰。他知道神呼召他為即將到來的救主鋪路。耶穌終於來 了。約翰的門徒告訴他,很多人都去找耶穌。約翰並沒有因此嫉妒。他在約翰 福音 3:28-30 中回答說:28 我曾說:『我不是基督,是奉差遣在他前面的』,你 們自己可以給我作見證。29 娶新婦的就是新郎;新郎的朋友站着,聽見新郎的 聲音就甚喜樂。故此,我這喜樂滿足了。30 他必興旺,我必衰微。」約翰形容 耶穌為新郎。約翰看自己是婚禮的助手。他的角色是為新郎做準備。現在耶穌 已經出現。約翰感到高興而不是難過。耶穌應該成為我們生命的焦點。如果我 們真的看耶穌為主,看自己為僕人,我們就能謙卑。很多時候我們把面子當作 全身最重要的肌肉。我們渴望得到別人的認可。我們面對批評時,就覺得被人 針對。如果沒有人看到我們做的好事,我們就覺得是白做了。但是神看我們的 心比我們的面子更重要。如果我們的態度正確,我們的行為也會正確。有時我 們用世界的標準來衡量我們所謂的成功。我們認為更大就是更好,因此我們嫉 妒一些大教會。事實上,神為我們安排了不同的事奉範圍。作為一所華人教 會,我們可以更有效地做一些獨特的事工。神不要求我們出名,祂只要求我們 忠心。耶穌呼召我們為祂的國度建立門徒,而不是為自己的城堡建造紀念碑。 以後沒有人記得我們,那又有什麼關係。最重要的是人們透過我們的努力能認 識耶穌。我們每天都將一切獻給主,完成祂託付給我們的任務。如果我們以這 種心態生活,我們就會有喜樂而不是嫉妒了。

結論 CONCLUSION

大衛是掃羅嫉妒的犧牲品。大衛沒有反抗,他乃是順服主。大衛的視野超越過自己的遭遇,因為他仰望神要成就的事情。一千多年後,耶穌也因為嫉妒而受苦。甚至連羅馬的巡撫彼拉多都知道宗教領袖是因為嫉妒而想要除掉耶穌。耶穌沒有為自己追求公道,而是順服天父的安排。就這樣,耶穌將人的邪惡計劃變成了勝利。如果我們將自己交託給神,祂能夠從人的嫉妒中創造出美好的事情。有一個關於邁爾和摩根的有趣故事。他們兩位是上個世紀英國著名的牧師。有一次,邁爾嫉妒摩根,因為摩根教會的人數比較多。兩位牧師經常在同一個會議中講道。邁爾感到不高興,有些人去聽摩根的講道,但輪到他講的時候卻不出席。邁爾越想越是不爽。不知不覺中他竟然習慣性地批評摩根的講道,而不是欣賞他的恩賜。邁爾意識到自己嫉妒的問題。因此,他祈求神改變他的心。同時,邁爾也求神祝福摩根的事工。漸漸地,他的內心沒有嫉妒了。邁爾甚至公開稱讚摩根的信息。結果,神也祝福邁爾的教會。因為摩根的教會非常擁擠,一些人便去了邁爾的教會。神把兩敗俱傷的局面變成雙方都蒙福的結果。