

**I. Introduction and review.**

**II. God judges Saul for his disobedience. v. 14**

**A. The Spirit of the LORD departs from Saul. v. 14a**

1. In what sense did Saul ever have the Spirit? 10:6,10
2. The Spirit was given not in regeneration and conversion, but in equipping Saul for the task of being king. Judg. 14:6,19 15:14
3. Because of Saul's faithlessness, the Spirit leaves him. 16:14 18:12 15:28 Jdg. 16:20
4. The Spirit comes mightily upon David, never to depart. v. 13 Ps. 51:11

**B. An evil spirit from the LORD terrorizes Saul. v. 14b,23 18:10 19:9**

1. God is absolutely sovereign even over Satan and the demons. Judges 9:23  
I Ki. 22:20-23 II Sam. 24:1 I Chron. 21:1
  - a. God is in control of evil. Is. 45:5-7 Ro. 8:28 Eph. 1:11 Am. 3:6
  - b. Satan could not touch Job without God's permission. Job 1:8-12 2:3-6,10
  - c. Those under church discipline are handed over to Satan for punishment. I Cor. 5:5 I Tim. 1:20
  - d. Paul's pride was restrained by a thorn in the flesh, a messenger from Satan. II Cor. 12:7-10
  - e. The LORD uses evil (bad things) for His good purposes. Ro. 8:28 9:17ff
2. Another possible interpretation is that the LORD sent an angel to do bad things to Saul as judgment for his sin. Gen. 18 Amos 3:6
3. The evil spirit is an act of judgment upon Saul.
4. Saul is tormented and terrified.
5. All of this is part of God's plan for elevating David.

**C. Application.**

1. Beware of the severe consequences of stubbornly disobeying the LORD. Pr. 13:6 Acts 5:1ff Ro. 6:23 1:24,26,28 Js. 1:19-21 Heb. 10:31
2. Can a true believer lose the Holy Spirit? Eph. 1:13-14 4:30 I Pe. 1:5 Phil. 1:6 Jo. 10:27f Ezek. 36:25ff
3. Are some of our problems today caused by evil spirits? Eph. 6:12 I Jo. 5:19
4. Does this mean we should look to deliverance ministries to set us free from demonic powers? I Jo. 5:18 Luke 10:18 Col. 2:15 I Jo. 3:8 Ro. 16:20 Eph. 2:1ff

**III. Saul seeks musical relief. v. 15-23**

**A. Saul's servants urge him to find a musician who can ease his torment. v. 15-17**

1. What would music have to do with quelling evil spirits?
2. Elsewhere music is tied to spiritual activity. 10:5 II Ki. 3:15 II Sa. 6:5 I Chr. 13:8 Ps. 33:2ff 150:3
3. What kind of instrument did David play? Gen. 4:21

**B. Music is still used for spiritual purposes.**

1. Music is powerful.
2. Music is an important part of our worship. Co. 3:16 Eph. 5:19-20 Ro. 15:9 Acts 16:25 Mt. 26:20 Lu. 1:46ff He. 2:12 Ex. 15:1ff Ps. 69:30-31 Rev. 5:9 14:3
3. Not all music is true worship. Amos 5:23 John 4:24
4. Different kinds of music are appropriate for particular settings. Mt. 11:16-17

5. It is important that our musicians be skilled. v. 16 Pr. 22:29 I Chr. 15:22 Ps. 33:3
- C. David plays his lute for Saul. v. 18-23
1. Providentially, one of Saul's servants knows about David. v. 18a
  2. David is a man of many talents -- musician, warrior, speaker, handsome.  
The LORD is with him. v. 18b 18:7,12 II Sam. 23:1 Pr. 16:21 21:23 22
  3. How could David be recognized as valiant warrior at this early stage of his life?
  4. Saul unknowingly invites his replacement into the palace. v. 19 15:28
  5. David gains Saul's favor. v. 21-22 18:1
  6. David is an instrument of God's mercy to Saul. v. 23
  7. David, the future king, is first a servant.
- D. Application.
1. God works through His providence to bring us where He wants us to be. Ro. 8:28
  2. As David's presence held back the tide of evil in Saul's life, our presence in the world restrains decay and judgment and brings blessing. Mt. 5:13
  3. Mental anguish is often rooted in sin and alienation from God. Ps. 32:1ff
  4. Many people today, like Saul, settle for partial temporary relief from their spiritual problems.
  5. Seek the LORD while He may be found. Isa. 55:6 Ro. 10:11-13 Luke 18:38

#### IV. Concluding applications.

- A. What is the difference between David and Saul?
1. After Saul disobeyed, his focus was on looking good before men and getting relief from the consequences of his sin. 15:30
  2. When David sinned, he sought reconciliation with God. Ps. 51
- B. Christ is plainly and powerfully seen in this passage!
1. He is the subject of all of the Psalms and songs of praise. v. 18a Ps. 23 2 110
  2. He is a mighty man of valor who has conquered Satan and sin. v. 18b Ps. 110:1ff Luke 10:18 Col. 2:15 I Jo. 3:8 Ro. 16:20
  3. His speech is full of perfect wisdom. v. 18c Isa. 11:1-2 Mt. 7:28-29 13:54 22:33
  4. He is the fairest of ten thousand. v. 18d Song 5:10
  5. The LORD is with Him. v. 18e John 1:1-2 Acts 10:38
  6. He is God with us! v. 18f Isa. 7:14 9:6 John 1:14 Mt. 1:23 28:20 Heb. 13:5
  7. He has power over evil spirits. v. 23 Mark 1:27 Luke 11:20 Acts 7:38
  8. He hid His identity for a time in order to prevent a premature crisis. Jo. 2:4 7:30
  9. He humbly served before He was enthroned as King. Mark 10:45 John 13:1ff Phil. 2:5-11
- C. Will you seek temporary relief through the things of this world or will you seek everlasting joy and peace in Christ?

#### Discussion questions

1. In what sense did Saul have and then lose the Spirit of the LORD?
2. How can God, Who is good, send an evil spirit upon Saul?
3. What warning should we take from the LORD's judgment upon Saul?
4. Can a true believer lose the Holy Spirit?
5. What would you say to someone who says that the key to overcoming sin is deliverance from various demons (of lust, anger, greed, substance abuse, etc.)?
6. How is music used today for powerful spiritual purposes?
7. How can music be misused in worship?
8. Where in this passage do we see Christ?
9. How are people today like Saul – seeking relief from the symptoms of their alienation from God without solving the problem?

**10. How are Christians an influence (salt and light) in a world oppressed by Satan like David was to Saul?**