

When You've Been Wronged

Lesson 5

When You Are Under Attack by A Spear Thrower

I Samuel Chapter 10.

It's a common and major problem in schools today. Once considered a basic nuisance and an expected part of everyday school life, bullying is now an epidemic. School districts are developing entire programs to educate teachers and children on how to handle and deal with bullies in school.

Bullies hurt—and their words and attacks can stay with you for a lifetime.

But there are adult bullies too. These are not always physically intimidating people, they do not wear angry scowls on their faces or sport strange horns. Yet they operate in offices and churches, and you might find some among your relatives. Some of you reading these words might be married to one. These adult bullies are more accurately labeled as *Spear Throwers*.

These adult bullies are bent on damaging and threatening you—even destroying you or your reputation. Motivated by jealousy, they stop at nothing to make certain you melt in a pool of fear and shame at their words or actions. They like to see people squirm. They are self-absorbed, self-motivated, and self-deceived. And they do it all cloaked with verses of Scripture and hidden behind the loftiest of motives. Many of them claim a deep relationship with God. They may be Sunday School Teachers, social workers, and devoted parents. Amazingly, they can be caring and thoughtful—and mean and evil—all at once.

Any study about overcoming wrongs would be incomplete without a discussion on the topic of spear throwers, and how to deal with them from God's perspective.

Definition of a Spear Thrower: A spear thrower is someone who enjoys hurting other people or likes to assert their authority.

- They are narcissistic.....having an excessive or self-absorbed interest in oneself and one's physical appearance.
- Impossible people.
- They are charming and kill with kindness.

And so, we are introduced to Saul in I Samuel, Chapter 10:1. Saul had the following characteristics;

- Anointed.....I Samuel 10:1. Saul seems to be very humble at one time, and even a bit reluctant to be King.
- He had a prophetic gift.....verses 6-7.
"There are people who have a prophetic gift. And there are people who use that prophetic gift to control people."

Unfortunately, you will encounter people that are committed to controlling you, especially those who say they got their information directly from God unfiltered. They know exactly what God's will is because God told them directly what His will is for you and me. And they use this gift to manipulate other people.

- He was impressive in his appearance.....I Samuel 9:2. Tall, Powerful, and Good Looking.
- He had Military Victories and Abilities.....I Samuel, Chapter 11.

So, what pushed Saul over the edge? I Samuel 17.....David.

- David kills Goliath and put's the Philistine Army on the run.

- David is close friends with Jonathan, the son of Saul.
- David is a confidant of Saul.
- Whatever Saul sends David to do, he does successfully.
- Saul gave David a high rank in his army.

I Samuel 18: 5-9; “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his 10 thousand.”

I Samuel 18: 10-11;

- Saul hurls spear at David twice.
- An evil spirit from God comes over Saul.
- God’s message to Saul seems to be repent or be hardened further.

Remember, spear throwers are everywhere!

Characteristics of a Spear Thrower Found in Saul.

- He believed the Kingdom was his, not God’s.
- He displayed Insecurity and Jealousy.
- Displayed a Manipulative and Divisive Spirit.
- He tried to get his Son, Jonathan to kill David (I Samuel 19:1-11a; 20:24-33).
- He lived by his own set of rules. Spear throwers don’t abide by the same rules they make for everyone else. See the story of the Witch of Endor.
- A Spear thrower believes what he does is right simply because he does it.

But why does God allow Saul to continue to rule, and rule about 10 years?

Hmmm...I wonder if anyone remembers the Thomas Aquinas quote?

Let me suggest two reasons why;

- To get Saul out of David's heart.
- David had the potential to be Saul # 2.

So How Do You Defend Yourself Against a Spear Thrower?

- **DUCK!** Avoiding them is the best strategy. David escaped twice. He did not hang around to become a martyr. This could be moving to another Church, Job, or Home.
- Develop boundaries within your families and relationships.
- Seek Professional Help.

Saul kept David off guard with his false humility.

Saul's charming and accommodating ways seemed very remorseful.

5 times Saul promised to mend his ways giving David hope. But he always changed his mind about changing his mind.

Never take what a Spear Thrower says personally. Why? Spear throwers see the evil in their hearts as belonging to others.

Famous Quote....." Never wrestle with a pig. For one thing, you'll get dirty. Second, the pig will love it, and third, he plays by a different set of rules.

Spear throwers are irrational. They are not bound by fairness, truthfulness, decency, or respect.

You can't meet them on a level playing field.

They categorize everyone as either evil or good (good meaning those who agree with them).

You either agree with them thereby coming under their control or you are cast aside (Proverbs 28:28).

- **Do not become a Spear Thrower Yourself.**

David passed on two opportunities to assassinate Saul (I Samuel 24:6).

He never took the spears Saul threw at him and threw them back at Saul. David let God take care of his enemy.

- **Look for God's Purpose in your difficult ordeal.**

David needed the desert experience. God would use it to teach him patience, humility, and absolute surrender.

4 Questions to ask yourself;

- Am I envious of those who have more resources and influence than me?
- How would I react if in my service to the Church, I was asked to step down from this ministry?
- Do I ever wish that "*someone would get what they have coming to them,*" for something done to me?
- Do I let people know about the injustice done to me? Hoping to gain sympathy or make another person look bad?

Could it be that God allows some people to live in pain to bring about genuine repentance and brokenness (2 Corinthians 4: 7-9)?

It is a process that ensures dependence and godliness on the Lord, not on ourselves.

Your Pain May Be a Blessing.

Finally, Wait on the Lord! Read the prayers of David while hiding in the desert. (Psalm 34:4, 6, Psalm 37: 3-4, Psalm 40: 1-2).

When you read Luke 22: 53, Jesus seems to be saying to us, *“Because I believe my Father is in control, I don’t have to be.”*

Remember, you can’t reconcile with a Spear Thrower. But they can teach us much about ourselves and our God.

As we close this study, I leave you with a prayer David prayed and recorded in Psalm 37: 1-13. The King James version is beautiful, but I love the NIV version. In the words of J. R. R. Tolkien,

“May it be a light to you in dark places, when all other lights go out.”

May the Lord God be with you, and give you Grace.

Next Lesson: Christians in the Courtroom