

# The Making of a Man of God

## Chapter 3 – Souls in Conflict

- I. Redpath contrasts King Saul and the up-and-coming King David in this chapter. He writes that “Both of them were chosen for leadership and both of them were anointed by the Spirit. But with those two statements comparison ceases and contrast begins, for everything else in the life of Saul and David is in string opposition” (pg. 38)
  
- II. Saul is a picture of a:
  - A. Soul in ***Decline*** (pg. 39)
    1. Saul’s decline of soul was indicated (in part) by the emergence of jealousy. Jealousy is listed (in Galatians 5) as one of the “works of the flesh.” Also listed there are things like “selfishness,” “outbursts of wrath,” “envy,” “drunkenness,” “lust,” “sexual immorality,” and “divisions.”
      - a) One of the dangers a Christian man faces is making excuses, or justifications for the presences of such carnal things in our lives. ***How can we guard against such justifications?***
    2. Soberingly, Redpath notes that “A spiritual decline is always obvious to everyone except the person involved.”
      - a) Sometimes we can be oblivious to the fact that we’ve allowed ourselves to backslide or decline in various areas to life. ***What sort of things do you think we can do to keep from backsliding into such carnal patterns?***
    3. On page 40, Redpath writes, “What a man does when he is alone with his thoughts will decide what he is when he is in public with other people. It is there that either by self-indulgence a man’s character is wrecked, or by self-discipline a man’s character is made.”
      - a) Integrity is doing what is right, when no one else is watching. ***What sort of things can we do to develop and maintain integrity in our lives?***
  - B. Soul in ***Desolation*** (pg. 41)
    1. 1 Samuel 18:12 says “The Lord ... departed from Saul.”

- a) ***What could it mean that the Lord departed from Him?***
    - (1) Did Saul have “salvation” as we think of it? Did he—in the Lord departing from Him—lose salvation? Or is this speaking about something other than salvation?
  - b) ***What are some of the indicators that Redpath cites, which reveal a person from whom God’s presence is withdrawn?***  
(pg. 42)
- C. Soul in ***Disobedience*** (pg. 45)
- 1. 1 Samuel 15:23 says, “***Because you have rejected the word of the Lord***, He has also rejected you from being king.”
    - a) ***How does one reject the Word of the Lord?*** (consider 1 Sam. 12:14-15, 15:17-19, 28:16-18)
    - b) ***How can we guard ourselves from also becoming rejectors of God’s Word?*** (consider Joshua 1:6-9, Psalm 1:1-6)