

Speaker : **Timothy Ong**
Title : **The Man Who Has Grown Too Tall**
Text : **James 3:13-18; 4:1-12**

James 3:13 – Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. [14] But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. [15] Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. [16] For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:17 – But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. [18] Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

INTRODUCTION

King Saul grew from 'small' to 'big'.
And he became too big for himself to handle.

BODY

I. Saul was chasing after his own shadow. (1 Sam 24: 1,2 ; 26:1,2)

- a) It is something he has created.
- b) It is something which is not real.

David had never wanted to hurt Saul.

- a) David had cut off the corner of his skirt
- b) He had taken Saul's spear & the cruse of water.

Jealousy is a passion stirred up by the imagination.

Object is real > thoughts
Shadow cast > shadow of the thoughts are not real.

- a) People who will come to try & separate your meaningful relationship
- b) There are many voices/thoughts

Rumour spreads like wild fire. It stirs up people's feelings, burning friends & foes alike.

II. Saul make himself small. (1 Sam 24:14; 26:20)

1Sam. 24:14 – "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? [15] May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."

1 Sam.26:20 – Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the LORD. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea--as one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

1Sam. 26:21 – Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly."

Saul was actually "big", but he made himself "low" by chasing after David with 3000 men (24:2; 26:2)

III. Saul brought about hardship

These whispering voices is to create hardship for you & the friend. It turns a potential friend into a foe.

- i) It caused David to be discouraged & makes him feel like giving up his faith in God.
(1 Sam 26:19; 27:1)
- ii) It prevented Saul from thinking right & acting right. (1 Sam 14:16-22; 26:21)

IV. Saul would had got weary of chasing after shadows. (1 Sam 26:2)

1Sam 26:2 – So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search there for David

(26:5c) Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.

a) Saul saw others' success & he don't know how to handle it. He couldn't stand it, and he did not take care of it. (v.8)

He started off right

1Sam. 18:5 – Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully* that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well.

But he allowed a jealous spirit to overtake him.

(v.9) "And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David."

- b) Saul had everything that he needed.
It is not that we don't have which makes us in need.
But we can't stand it that someone else have more!

Reading James 4:11-12

James 4:11 – Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. [12] There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you--who are you to judge your neighbor?

VI. How can we overcome Saul' kind of spirit?

- a) As Christians our only safety lies in complete honesty.
- b) We must surrender our hearts to God so that we have no unholy desires.
- c) Then let the Scriptures pronounce their judgment on our contemplated course. Because of God is greater than our heart. (1 John 3: 19-24)
- d) Exercise self denial.

CONCLUSION

Unsanctified desires /thoughts/ feelings will stop the growth of any Christian life.

Wrong desire perverts the moral judgment so that we are unable to appraise the desired object at its real value.