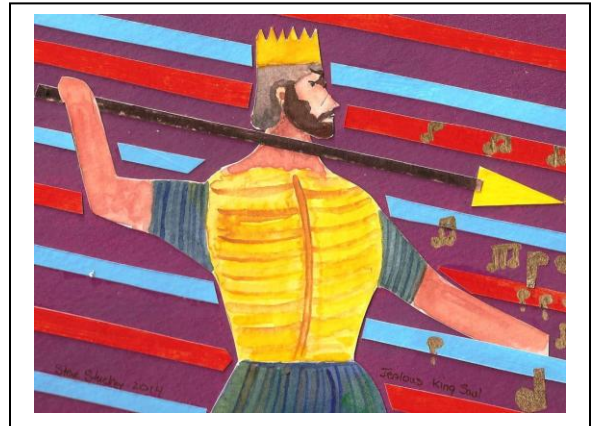


# Making Space for God

## Opening Prayer

Lord, you know what is best for me. Give me what you will and when you will and as much as you will. Do with me what you think best and as it please you and brings you the most honor. Place me where you will and use me according to your wisdom. I am in your hand as your servant ready to do all that you command. I want to live not for myself, but for you. I want to serve you fittingly and perfectly.

*Thomas a Kempis*



*Jealous King Saul*  
Watercolor Collage by Steven Stuckey 2014

## Reflection- Looking Back

Take some times to settle yourself. Review your calendar and think back over where you have been this past month. Focus on answering this one question: **How has the Lord been present to you?** In the events of your life; in your joys and fears; in what has occupied your mind and heart; in what you dream about or long for; in what you are thankful for. Journal these thoughts and offer them to the Lord.

## Scripture Study—1 Samuel 18—Saul is Jealous of David

David's dramatic victory over Goliath won him respect from fellow soldiers, fame among the citizens of the land and love and admiration from Saul's children. But that success triggered a tidal wave of fear, anger, and jealousy in Saul. His great loss of the Lord's favor was exposed. Rather than go directly to the Lord with his feelings, he projected blame onto David and proceeded to lose his sanity. The dynamic tension between the two characters occupies the story line for the remaining thirteen chapters of the book of 1 Samuel and becomes the crucible for David's discipleship.

## Reading for Reflection

To have a healthy spirituality, we must feed our soul in three ways: through prayer, both private and communal; through the practice of justice; and through having those things in our lives (good friendships, wine-drinking, creativity, and healthy leisure) that keep the soul mellow and grateful.

*Ronald Rolheiser in The Holy Longing, page 67*

Once a person has achieved a modicum of physiological growth and awareness, he is severely punished by the unconscious if he reneges on it and sinks back to his previous level. It is better to have never seen anything than to have our eyes opened and decide to be blind again. When we turn our back on a step we have taken towards individuation, the inner forces that were ready to be helpful and creative turn dark and destructive.

*John Sanford in King Saul the Tragic Hero, page 51*

When a man really makes it, then he is often in for one hell of a time with his anima (feminine side of the unconscious)

*Robert Johnson*

If you don't pray you will inevitably become either depressed or inflated- or bounce back and forth between the two. Only prayer can provide for you that fine line (spiritual, psychological, emotional) between depression and inflation.

*Ronald Rolheiser in The Holy Longing, page 218*

Thus to ponder, biblically, is to stand before life's great mysteries the way Mary stood before the various events of Jesus' life, including the way she stood under the cross. There is great joy in that but there can also be incredible tension. The type of mysticism that we most need today to revitalize our faith is precisely this kind of pondering, a willingness to carry tension as Mary did... Nobility of soul is connected to carrying tension....Nobody will ever remain faithful in a marriage, a vocation, a friendship, a family, a job, or just to his or her own integrity without sometimes sweating blood in the garden....In Jesus' message there is the strong motif of waiting, of pondering, of chastity, of having to carry tension without giving in to premature resolution.

*Ronald Rolheiser in The Holy Longing, page 220-222*

A leader is someone with the power to project either shadow or light onto some part of the world and onto the lives of the people who dwell there. A leader shapes the ethos in which others must live, an ethos as light-filled as heaven or as shadowy as hell. A good leader is intensely aware of the interplay of inner shadow and light, lest the act of leadership do more harm than good.

*Parker Palmer in Let Your life Speak, Page 78*

Those of us who readily embrace leadership, especially public leadership, tend towards extroversion, which often means ignoring what is happening inside ourselves. If we have any sort of inner life, we "compartmentalize" it, walling it off from our public work. This, of course, allows the shadows to grow unchecked until it emerges, larger than life, in the public realm, a real problem we are well acquainted with in our own domestic politics. Leaders need not only the technical skills to manage the external world but also the spiritual skills to journey inward toward the source of both shadow and light.

*Parker Palmer in Let Your life Speak, Page 79*

*It is so much easier to deal with the external world, to spend our lives manipulating material and institutions and other people instead of dealing with our own souls. We like to talk about the outer world as if it were infinitely complex and demanding, but it is a cakewalk compared to the labyrinth of our inner lives*

*Parker Palmer, Let Your Life Speak, Page 82*

## **The Benediction**

*No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take heaven!*

*No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little instant. Take peace!*

*Anne Lamott*

## Reflection Questions for 1 Samuel 17

1. Describe the unique relationship between Jonathan and David. When Jonathan, the crown prince, gave his clothes to David, it signified that he was committing his all, including the right to the throne to David.
2. In our political world, where power plays such an important role, what would be thought of a prince who voluntarily renounced his throne in favor of a friend whose character and godly faith he admired?
3. What did Jonathan's royal honor and respect (which NIV translates as love) for David cost him.
4. "From that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David." What does Saul's jealousy tell you about what was happening in Saul's soul? What fueled his jealousy? When have you experienced jealousy recently?
5. Saul views David as his enemy because.....
6. What did David do to win the hand of Michal, Saul's daughter? Compare this story to that of Jacob who sought the hand of Rachel.