

## Resisting Enemy Disruption

*Series on Following God's Schedule*

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### What We Will Learn

- Threat of enemy disruption may come in several forms at any stage of a mission
- Illustrated through Parable of the Sower
- David faced threat to his life from Saul
- Recognized threat
- But cherished military career under Saul
- Appeared to define a clear path to kingship
- David's approach to resisting threat
- Recognize, assess, and resist

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### Enemy Disruption in Parable of the Sower

- Disruption from "following God's schedule"
- Personal habit or environmental influence
- Disrupts "seeds" from growing to maturity
  - Seeds fail to germinate
  - Germinate but fail to establish root
  - Well-rooted, but fail to grow to maturity due to environmental disruption
- Matthew 13:18–23

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### Matthew 13 (NIV)

18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:

19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

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### Matthew 13 (NIV)

20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.

21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

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### Matthew 13 (NIV)

22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

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## Threat of Enemy Disruption for David

- Direct threat to his life from Saul
- Recognized threat
- But cherished military career
- As likely path to kingship
- Resisted threat of disruption
  - Initially by containment
  - Ultimately by avoidance

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## David's Containment Strategy

- Intended to remain in Saul's service
- Loyal to Saul, but vigilant to protect himself
- Eluded Saul's spear attack three times
- The third was different: the spear penetrated the wall behind David
- David escaped for good that night
- 1 Samuel 18:10–11 and 19:9–10

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### 1 Samuel 18 (NIV)

10 The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand

11 and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

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### 1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

9 But an evil spirit from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the lyre,

10 Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.

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## David's Avoidance Strategy

- David threatened by proximity to Saul
- Departed to establish safe distance
- Moved frequently and quickly as necessary
- Setup effective network for sending and gathering information
- 1 Samuel 20:41–42

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### 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

41 After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.

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## 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

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## Assessing Threat of Enemy Disruption (1)

- Categorized in terms of severity
- Can coexist with mission: choose containment while focusing on mission
- Cannot coexist but can be removed: threat must be snuffed out
- Cannot coexist and cannot be removed: Mission must separate from the threat in order to survive

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## Assessing Threat of Enemy Disruption (2)

- Categorized in terms of friendliness
- Friendly
- Unfriendly
- Hostile
- Use severity category to choose approach to resistance

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## What We Learned

- David thrived in military career under Saul
- Enmity from Saul threatened David's life
- David resisted threat to his life from Saul
- David tried containment of threat initially
- Departed from Saul to avoid the threat
- Christ used Parable of the Sower to teach threat of enemy disruption
- In following God's schedule

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