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What Sin Does: Destroys

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Samuel 19:1, 4-5

1. Introduction
   1. Walking towards the cross during Lent by way of self-examination and penitence
   2. Review: Last time we talked about how sin enslaves us
      1. Sin is (not just a morally wrong action) a power that rules over us
      2. Corrupts our human nature
      3. Whereby we *willingly* (and dare I say joyfully) sin against God, ourselves, and our neighbors
   3. Today, we turn to King Saul to see the destructive nature of sin
2. Context
   1. 1 Samuel comes after the period of Judges, when Israel existed without a king
   2. The people grumble against God, and wanting to be like other nations they ask God for a King
   3. Despite having wrong motives, God gives Israel what they want and makes Saul their king
   4. Saul initially proves himself through his political stature and military victories
   5. However, Saul sins against God, by trying to rule apart from Him
   6. Because of this, God rejects Saul’s kingship and promises a new king (David)
   7. Unwilling to repent before God, Saul attempts to secure his throne by killing David
3. Sin Destroys Internally
   1. Saul’s sin manifests itself primarily through deep character flaws
      1. For instance, lacks integrity, stubborn, prideful, and unwilling to admit mistakes and receive correction
   2. When David is announced as new king, Saul responds with jealousy
   3. Because Saul does not turn to God, he lets jealousy grow inside of him
      1. Saul’s jealousy continues to grow with each of David’s accomplishments
   4. Sin destroys us from within…
      1. by keeping us from turning to God in repentance, which keeps us from learning to depend on Him
      2. by allowing things within our hearts to eat us up (e.g. anger, jealousy, pride)
      3. by making us feel like we can justify emotions that are irrational
         1. David is innocent, he did no wrong, yet Saul hates him anyway
4. Sin Destroys Externally
   1. What takes place on the outside is not disconnected from what takes place on the inside
   2. We act out of our emotions, and that’s deadly when we don’t give that over to God
      1. “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brotherwill be liable to judgment…” (Matt. 5:21-22)
   3. For Saul, his rage and jealousy go unchecked, moving him to take David’s life
      1. Though David had done no wrong!
   4. We see this in the world today: slaughter of innocent Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand (fifty killed, fifty injured, and one of those killed being a three-year old boy)
   5. We this in our own lives as well
5. Christ Destroys That Which Destroys
   1. The gospel never says it’s okay to feel angry as long as we don’t end up murdering people
   2. Christ calls us to genuinely love and actively seek the good of others; he calls us to be peacemakers
   3. If this is to happen, though, we need Christ to transform our hearts from within
   4. We can be either one of two people:
      1. We can be like Saul – allow sin to eat us up alive, and look for ways to justify ourselves in that sin
      2. We can be like Christ – humble ourselves by going to God with our emotional baggage, and let the Spirit transform our hearts so we can respond to others with love and sow chords of lasting peace