As we pick up the story of David today, I believe our hero is about 20 years old. He has just killed the Philistine giant Goliath, and has reaped the reward of marrying the king’s daughter, Michal:

1 Samuel 18:17
*And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the Lord's battles.*

Every Bible student remembers that David never married Merab for Saul gave her to another man. But all was not lost:

1 Samuel 18:20
*And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.*

Now I don’t know much about Merab, but Michal drove David crazy and really turned against him on any number of occasions. So you have the savage beginning of a royal family in conflict:

- David, the hero and apparent favorite of the people
- King Saul, who lied about Merab
- The young bride Michal, Saul’s daughter, who turned against David
- Some rabbis believe that Merab bore her husband five sons; and when he died, that Michal, her sister, raised them. But that is only speculation.
- Michal had a brother named Jonathan. Despite the animosity between David and Saul, Jonathan loved David and became his best friend:
1 Samuel 18:1-5

And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. [2] And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. [3] Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. [4] And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

[5] And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

I tell you: this has all the ingredients of a TV soap opera!

I doubt that David had access to the clothing of a royal, and Jonathan, his new brother-in-law (to be), supplied his own clothes to him. Remember, Saul, the king of Israel and father of Jonathan, several times tried to kill David. He even killed some priests in his attempt:

1 Samuel 22:6-16

When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that were with him, (now Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him;) [7] Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds; [8] That all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

[9] Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. [10] And he enquired of the Lord for him, and gave
him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. [11] Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king. [12] And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord. [13] And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? [14] Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? [15] Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more. [16] And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house.

(Nob was a small village just northeast of Jerusalem and was considered a sacred place and a center for priests.)

IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT DAVID AND HIS MEN HID OUT AT EIN GEDI - WEST BANK OF THE DEAD SEA. (CAVES LINE BOTH BANKS, AND THERE ARE WATERFALLS.)

THE FINAL STRAW BETWEEN DAVID AND SAUL

1 Samuel 18:6-11

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. [7] And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. [8] And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? [9] And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. [10] And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit
from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. [11] And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

THE SINFULNESS AND POTENTIAL DANGERS OF JEALOUSY

For King Saul to be jealous of David and all the trappings of the throne was ridiculous.

Galatians 5:26
Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Don’t think so lightly about jealousy. It can ruin your life – even kill you.

Song of Solomon 8:6
Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.

Saul had been anointed by the prophet Samuel; his position on the throne was secure - until he started to set aside God’s plans and directions for his own. Then INSECURITY set in... and strange decisions assured his fate.

JONATHAN HELPED DAVID ESCAPE THE WRATH OF SAUL

1 Samuel 19:1-10
And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. [2] But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself: [3] And I will go out and stand
beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with
my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

[4] And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said
unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David;
because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have
been to thee-ward very good: [5] For he did put his life in his hand, and
slew the Philistine, and the Lord wrought a great salvation for all Israel:
thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against
innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? [6] And Saul hearkened
unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the Lord liveth, he shall
not be slain. [7] And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him
all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his
presence, as in times past.

[8] And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the
Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from
him. [9] And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, as he sat in
his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.
[10] And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin;
but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into
the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

Except for the grace and help of the Lord, envy/jealousy does not get
better on its own – but rather festers into something that will be terribly
damaging – often forever!

It must be noted on David’s behalf that he tried to avoid any further
conflict with King Saul; but Saul’s rage by now was fueled by Satan:

1 Samuel 19:9-10

And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, as he sat in his house
with his javelin in his hand: and David played (the harp) with his hand.
[10] And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin;
but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into
the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.