April 14 Answers

1) Saul's appreciation for David turned to jealousy when the people began to applaud David's exploits. Under the influence of an evil spirit, Saul tried twice to kill David with a spear. This teaches us that jealousy is a deadly sin—it is one step short of murder. God helped David escape, and he continued to serve Saul and defeat his enemies. This is an inspiring example of returning good for evil (cf. Rom 12:17–21), and it teaches us the importance of loving those who mistreat us (cf. Matt 5:43–48). David's success and popularity did not make him proud; he remained humble, even when the entire nation praised him (1 Sam 18:16). His humility came from a deep sense of his dependence on God. He understood that he was prospering in all his ways because God was with him (1 Sam 18:14). When Saul sent men to David's house to kill him, David turned to God in prayer (Ps 59). He called out to God to deliver him and destroy his enemies, and he dealt with his feelings of frustration and fear by reminding himself of God's unfailing love and kindness. David's praise in Psalm 59 shows us how to transform our emotions by focusing our minds on God and choosing to trust Him in spite of negative circumstances.