

Sunday Night Message

September 29, 2019

David and Jonathan

Topics – Saul; David; Jonathan; Jonathan and David

Series – *1 Samuel*

Text – 1 Samuel 18

Introduction

After David's victory over Goliath he becomes an instant celebrity throughout the land of Israel. Everyone loves David, including Saul's son Jonathan. Saul, however, will begin to be envious of David and in this chapter will attempt to kill him twice. This is the start of a developing hatred of David by Saul, which will only get worse as David's life and career progresses. Saul knows that God is with David, and Saul also knows that God is no longer with him. Verse twelve gets to the root of Saul's problem:

"And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul." (1 Samuel 18:12)

Saul was very insecure, and he will eventually become consumed with jealousy and Hatred toward David. Saul's every thought will be about David, and he will invest vast resources of Israel's money and men to have David killed.

Complicating matters even further is the fact that Jonathan, Saul's son, and David become very close friends.

I. David and Jonathan Develop A Close Friendship (vs. 1 – 4)

Verse 1 - The word, "knit" (קָשַׁר – *qashar*), means to tie together physically. Sometimes the Hebrew word is translated "bind." It is also translated "strong," and "conspire." Those are also words that would adequately describe their friendship. It was strong, and at times they even conspired together apart from Saul, for David's protection. Keep in mind, these are not two young teenagers. David is likely at least twenty, and Jonathan could have been much older than David. Some biblical chronologists calculate that there could have been an age difference of twenty-five to twenty-eight years between David and Jonathan.¹

Why did David and Jonathan have this strong relationship?

1. They both had a deep love for the Lord.
2. They both had a deep love for Israel.
3. They were both very courageous men who were not afraid to fight for their cause.
4. They were kindred spirits.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Successful*, "Be" Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor/Cook Communications, 2001), 100.

Verse 2 – Saul no longer allows David to go home. He becomes a full-time officer in Saul's army. Perhaps Saul wanted David near so that he could keep a better eye on him. (Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer.)

Verse 3 – Notice that David and Jonathan made a covenant with each other, probably regarding their friendship. Later on, this covenant will become stronger:

"And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth. And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house." (1 Samuel 23:16-18)

"The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father. ... But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies. And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul. ... And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded. And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city." (1 Samuel 20:13, 15-17, 41-42)

David honored this covenant years after the death of Jonathan by taking in Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. (See 2 Samuel 9)

It was one thing for David to be Jonathan's friend when he was underneath him in Saul's kingdom, but the true test of his love for Jonathan was years later when he took care of Jonathan's son when he didn't have to and it didn't benefit him at all.

Are you a friend like that? Or, are you a fair-weather friend?

Verse 4 – Jonathan's gifts to Saul were a token of his covenant with him. It could be that giving of this gift was an acknowledgement on the part of Jonathan that David was anointed to be king. He certainly knew this later on.

Before we leave this section –

1. Be friendly - *"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24)*
2. Choose your friends wisely.
 - a. Choose godly friends
 - b. Choose friends who will help you to be godly.

c. Choose friends who will help you to fulfil the will of God for your life.

3. Be a friend – even if no one is a friend to you, you can be a friend to somebody.

II. Saul Keeps A Close Eye on David (vs. 5 – 9)

Verse 5 – David acted wisely, and Saul gave him great responsibilities. Everybody liked David, which would ultimately cause him to become Saul's great enemy.

Verses 6 - 9 – the flattery of the women would be the thing that would really cause Saul to keep a close eye on David. He knew that David had the love and admiration of the nation.

A true leader; a godly leader will rejoice when the people that he leads succeed in the will of God. Instead of being happy about David's success and rejoicing with the people, Saul becomes very envious. A person like Saul can never truly be a follower of Christ because Christ must always have the preeminence. John the Baptist said:

"He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

III. David Experiences A Close Call When Saul Tries to Kill Him (vs. 10 – 16)

Saul is not here prophesying under the influence of the Holy Spirit, but a devil is speaking through him. Prophesying can also mean simply to speak before people. The context here indicates that Saul was ranting and raving, and then twice tries to kill Saul with his javelin.

Verse 12 states the heart of the problem. Saul no longer was being used by God, but God was all over David.

Saul removes David from his presence, and places him out with the army. God's hand continues to be with him. David succeeds in everything God gives him to do. The more success David has, the more Saul is afraid of him.

IV. David Becomes A Close Relation to Saul (vs. 17 – 30)

Saul never intended to give David either of his daughters. He intended to make sure David would be killed in battle by the Philistines, but you can't kill someone who God doesn't want dead.

Read 1 Chronicles 28:1 – 10; 20

"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD." (1 Chronicles 28:9, 20)

Conclusion

Over and over again it stated in this passage that Saul was afraid of David, and over and over again, it states that David behaved himself wisely and God was with him. And though David tried to kill David repeatedly, God continued to protect him.

Saul kept trying to hurt David, but because David was doing right, God was with him every step of the way.

The moral to the story is that you don't have to worry about the Saul's of this world; just worry about pleasing the Lord.