

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

FRIENDSHIP (1 SAMUEL 18:1-4) LIKE FATHER, NOT LIKE SON

After talking with his newfound prize fighter, Saul tells David he will no longer be returning to work as a shepherd.

- Jonathan, unlike his father, became bound to David after hearing him speak. **He didn't do it for selfish gain, like Saul, but from a place of genuine love. He loved him as himself.**

PRETTY DIFFERENT

Jonathan and David came from two very different walks of life. Jonathan was the firstborn in line for the throne, making him the **crown prince**.

- On the opposite end of the spectrum, David was the **last-born son of a farmer**. He was even overlooked by his father when Samuel came seeking him.

A LOT ALIKE

Though they were pretty different, they had a lot in common. They were close to the same age, bold men of action, and most importantly, God-led.

- Even though we may have only met someone, we can feel an instant connection to them because of Christ in us.**

A PLATONIC FRIENDSHIP

If there was anyone who should have been afraid of David, it was Jonathan. But, instead of finding an enemy, he found a brother. He cared so much about him he **initiated** a covenant with David.

- The beauty of this is that God is pursuing a covenant with us because of the great love He has for us.**

A ROBE IS GIVEN

Jonathan gave David his royal robe and his gear to seal the covenant that was made. This was a significant statement saying he was giving up his rights so that nothing would stand between them.

- God is asking the very same from us. Will we let go of everything that we treasure most for Him?**

JEALOUSY (1 SAMUEL 18:5-16) DAVID WAS SUCCESSFUL

As David went out for Saul, he served him to the best of his ability. As he did, the people and Saul's servants noticed, and his popularity increased.

- David didn't serve out of selfish ambition or because he was a people pleaser but because he was a man after God's heart. Why do or don't we serve?**

THE SONG, A NUMBER 1 HIT

Just as soon as we see David's popularity increase, we begin to see it decrease in the eyes of Saul because of a song and his selfishness leading to jealousy.

- Even in this time of praise and popularity, **David kept the heart of a shepherd. How do we handle success? How about when others do?**

AN EVIL SPIRIT

This is a difficult passage. **Why would God, who is opposed to Satan, send one of Satan's messengers to torment Saul?** This doesn't seem fair.

- There is a similar story in the New Testament about another Saul, or more accurately, at that time, formerly known as Saul (Paul).

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

...so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, **a messenger of Satan to torment me so that I would not exalt myself.** Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times that it would leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness."

- Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

SPIRITUAL BATTLES

Saul's selfish desires and pride brought him to this point. If only Saul would have laid his pride down and cried out to God in his weakness!

- God desires that we humble ourselves and rely on his strength. Will we run to him when we feel Satan is attacking, or will we try and rely on our own strength?**

ISRAEL AND JUDAH LOVED DAVID

Because of Saul's fear of David, he sent him away to be commander of 1,000 men. This may have been a demotion, but even so, he behaved wisely, and the people loved him.

- Seeing the people's and Jonathan's love for David, God's anointed, helps us see our love for Jesus more clearly. Do we trust Him enough to love Him?**

BRIDE PRICE (1 SAMUEL 18:17-30) ABOUT TIME

Finally, David would receive what he was promised in the Valley of Elah. No one would be upset if this were how David felt, but he showed humility and grace again.

- It is easy to get consumed with what we think we deserve or are owed. All this keeps us distracted from what God would have for us.**

MICHAL LOVED DAVID

Once again, we are confronted with another person who loves David. This love doesn't seem to be based on the same love that Jonathan's was.

- Instead of a love that was based on God as the focus, it was more of sensual love. If we desire true intimacy, Christ must be the foundation.**

THE BRIDE PRICE

Saul was a manipulator and knew he could never stand publicly against David, but that didn't mean it couldn't be the Philistines. So, he sets a price that would hopefully become David's demise.

- In typical David fashion, not only does he meet the price but exceeds it to honor Saul and God. Do we work as if for God?**

NEUTRAL

The other part of Saul's plan was coming to fruition. The Philistines were upset about the desecration of their dead, and they wanted David to pay.

- It was impossible for anyone to have a neutral stance with David. Either you loved him, or you hated him. There was no middle ground. Sound familiar?**

OUR FLESH

- Jealousy exposes what we love the most.
- Through that same jealous love, fear can begin to take shape.**
- Perfect love casts out fear. We must know who we are in Christ. We are deeply loved, forgiven from sin, and made for His purposes.**

SPIRITUAL

- Satan wants us to be distracted with things that are not of God, but God desires all of your attention.
- We must be aware of what we are allowing to speak into our lives.**
- Do we run to God in all things, allowing His Spirit to overflow through us, even in the worst circumstances?**

RELATIONSHIPS

- When we give our attention to God first, God will bring our relationships into focus.
- The Holy Spirit in your life will not be attractive to everyone.**
- But for everyone else, it allows for more intimate and meaningful relationships. Are we allowing God to be the focus in ours?**