

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 9TH-10TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

BROTHERHOOD (1 SAMUEL 20:1-8)

DAVID MAKES HIS ESCAPE

While Saul was still prophesying before Sam, David escaped from Naioth and found Jon. We see that the giant slayer gets upset and afraid as well.

- **Even the strongest people reach points of desperation. Desperation should remind us to rely on Jesus and His love for us.**

DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

David still felt like he must have somehow sinned against Saul, and he wanted Jon to tell him the truth. Though Jon denied his dad's malicious intent, David sensed Saul's motives.

- David had the Spirit, and **being filled with the Spirit through a relationship with God gives us wisdom and discernment.**

"...A STEP BETWEEN ME AND DEATH"

Though Jon wasn't aware of Saul's intent, David completely trusted Jon's integrity and loyalty. After David told Jon about Saul's plan to kill him away from Jon for his sake, Jon was willing to do whatever he had to for David.

- **Christians don't count the cost when it comes to helping friends in dire situations.**

DAVID WANTED TO CONFIRM SAUL'S MOTIVES

The friends devised a plan. David would hide in a field during the monthly New Moon festival, and Jon would tell Saul he was visiting his hometown. If Saul were ok, David would be as well. If Saul was mad, he intended to kill David.

- David reaffirms their covenant and asks Jon to be the one to execute him if he gets caught.

THE PLAN (1 SAMUEL 20:9-24A)

IRON SHARPENS IRON (PROVERBS 27:17)

Jon dominates this section, and that points to his importance in David's development and leadership abilities. It was Jon who helped with a plan and saw the greatness in David.

- **Who we spend time with matters! If bad company corrupts us (1 Corinthians 15:33), sharp, godly people will inspire us!**

PERFECTING THE PLAN

Notice that Jon and David didn't just have a plan; they took time to go over it and prepare for all possible outcomes.

- **God is a God of order, and He expects His people to do things with hard work and excellence to the best of their abilities (1 Corinthians 14:40, Ecclesiastes 9:10).**

THERE MUST ALSO BE WORK ON OUR END

Too often, professing Christians use grace as an excuse to shy away from hard work and excellence. This isn't biblical or God-honoring!

- **We're to be salt and light (Matthew 5) and to display good works as evidence of salvation (James 2, Ephesians 2). Though it all goes back to God, we're to be examples of His power.**

AN OATH BUILT ON THE LORD'S PRINCIPLES

Before Jon leaves David in the field, he reminds him that "the Lord will be a witness between" them forever. This was Jon swearing that he would have integrity before God and David.

- **Their friendship was rooted in God and His principles. The healthiest relationships will always be centered around God.**

THE TIPPING POINT (1 SAMUEL 20:24B-34)

AN EMPTY SEAT AT THE TABLE

As Saul noticed David missing from the New Moon festival, he assumed David, a devout man of God, was ceremonially unclean for some reason (Leviticus 11, 17, 20).

- The second day of being absent sent Saul on a descent into madness, and he asked Jon where "Jesse's son" was.

THE INSANITY OF SIN

As Saul starts to realize that Jon is helping David escape death, his years of unaddressed sin and rebellion lead him to utter insanity as he tries to murder his own son.

- **As time passes, unaddressed sin and selfishness will destroy our minds and lead us to do things that defy logic.**

PROGRESSIVE HATRED

First, Saul attacked Jon personally. Second, he used shame and guilt tactics. Third, he used fear (Jon's kingdom is threatened). Finally, he attempted physical abuse.

- **Unrepented sin causes hatred to escalate in our hearts. Haven't we seen escalated aggression in our shameless world?**

A REPULSION TO EVIL

After Saul threw a spear at Jon, Jon "got up...fiercely angry." He was also "grieved because of his father's shameful behavior." **Sin is repulsive because it destroys people.**

- **Sin should disturb us because it tears people apart, dishonors God, and will eventually separate us from Him in eternity.**

LEGACY (1 SAMUEL 20:35-42)

THE NEXT DAY

After Jon had clarity about his dad, he went out the next morning to confirm to David that he was, in fact, a fugitive from Saul.

- After Jon had the servant bring the arrows back, he sent him back to town with the weapons. This gave Jon and David time to talk and say their goodbyes.

RESPECT AND HONOR

David bowed down three times because Jon was a prince. They also "kissed each other and wept," which some have taken out of context because of the illiteracy of history and ancient culture.

- **Presentism and revising history are dangerous because we miss important lessons and repeat mistakes.**

FRIENDSHIP ROOTED IN "THE NAME OF THE LORD"

Jon assured David that even their friendship was rooted in God, and that would ensure the legacy of both of their families.

- The third commandment warns us about carelessly using oaths in God's name. But, if we're sincere and faithful, **relationships built on a promise to honor God will be blessed.**

UNDERSTANDING THE FUTURE IS IN HIS HANDS

David and Jon didn't know what the future held for them (they would only see each other once more) and their families, but they knew if they trusted God, it would ultimately be ok.

- Jon's friendship with David cost him a lot, but he understood **the long-term benefits of honor, integrity, love, and faithfulness.**

LOVE

- When we start to understand the goodness of God, it is easy to love Him. On the other hand, loving others can be challenging.
- **Honor, integrity, and faithfulness stem from a love of God and people**, but these attributes take **prayer, discipline, and work** to live out.

FAITHFULNESS

- We are called to be loyal to God and those He has placed in our lives to sharpen us. **Is our "yes" a "yes" and our "no" a "no"? Do we live out what we claim to be?**
- Faithfulness means more than just loyalty; it means a commitment to the truth. **Do we seek to know and live out God's truth?**

HONOR

- In a culture that has abandoned honor and respect, **it is imperative that we honor, respect, and "fear" (Proverbs 9:10) God because it saves and enriches us and enables us to love and honor other people.**
- Honoring God also leads to **wisdom** and the ability to **discern** relational problems.

INTEGRITY

- When we honor God, we learn to live with integrity because integrity is an integral part of the true Christian life. **The evidence of integrity is honesty and biblical morality.**
- Are we honest and moral people? Do we strive to uphold the principles of God's Word? **How is our reputation (1 Peter 2:12)?**

LEGACY

- A God-honoring legacy isn't cheap. God is easy to love, but obedience and loving others are difficult and costly.
- **What will be our contribution to humanity? Are we salt and light? What fruit are we producing? Whose kingdom are we focused on? Are we striving to be people of depth?**