

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 10TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

PROPOSITION (1 SAMUEL 20:1-11)

"HOW HAVE I SINNED AGAINST YOUR FATHER..."

God disarmed three groups of men and Saul as they came to kill David. While Saul is in Ramah, David flees and returns to Jonathan.

- David asks Jonathan to tell him what he had done that was so wrong that his father would want to kill him. **Someone after God's heart will always seek to reconcile sins against someone else and God.**

A TRUSTED FRIEND

David went to Jonathan because he knew Jonathan loved him and would tell him the truth, even if it was hard to hear.

- **Do we have someone we can go to who we know without a doubt will tell us the truth even when it's difficult to hear?** To truly love someone means we sometimes must do or say the hard things because **eternity is at stake.**

SAUL USED, THEN DECEIVED, HIS SON

Jonathan had incorrectly thought he was closer to his father than he really was, and he was shocked to find out the extent to which his father had gone to kill David. **He believed his father told him everything and had upheld the oath he had previously made** (19:6).

- David tells Jonathan that **his father withheld this from him because of their friendship.**

DAVID'S OATH

David swears an oath to Jonathan that as long as he lives, he and his family will live and not be punished for Saul's evil.

- There is a caveat to David's oath. He says, **"There is a step between me and death."** Essentially, **"Everywhere I go, at every turn, there is an attempt on my life, so I may not live to uphold my promise."**

JONATHAN'S RESPONSE

Jonathan tells David, **"Whatever you say, I will do for you."** Jonathan was willing and ready to do whatever it took to help a friend, regardless of the cost.

- **"No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends"** (John 15:13). **Jesus calls us friends** (John 15:15), and **He willingly laid down His life for us** (1 John 3:16).

DAVID DEVELOPS A PLAN

It was customary for Jewish families to host a feast at the new moon, and **David would be expected to sit with the king and eat.**

- **If Saul were angry** that David was not in attendance, then **his evil intentions would be revealed. If he excuses his absence**, then they will know **his hatred has been abated.**

"DEAL KINDLY WITH YOUR SERVANT..."

David issues a plea of mercy to his friend should Saul react harshly toward his absence. Essentially saying, **"If I am deserving of death, then mercifully carry it out instead of handing me over to your father."**

- Not knowing how David will know how if Saul responds, the two friends set out to the countryside to devise a plan.

PROTECTION (1 SAMUEL 20:12-23)

THE SPIRITUAL MATURITY OF JONATHAN

If Saul's response is favorable, he will go to him; if not, he will send him away. If David is to be sent away, Jonathan tells him, **"May the Lord be with you, just as he was with my father."**

- Jonathan recognizes that God was for Saul, not against him: **he was offered many opportunities for repentance.**

DISPLAYING GOD'S MERCY

Jonathan recognizes that if Saul intends to kill David, he could also kill him for helping him.

- Jonathan pleads with David to **"show [him] kindness from the Lord."** He then asks that this kindness would carry down through his household should he die. **David would later uphold this promise to Jonathan** (2 Samuel 9:1-8; 21:7)

THREE ARROWS

After Jonathan learned of his father's intentions, he would communicate to David through a signal.

- David would hide while Jonathan shot arrows past a target. The way in which Jonathan led his servant to the arrows would indicate to David, who could overhear him, whether he was safe or not.

INTENTIONS REVEALED (1 SAMUEL 20:24-34)

ALWAYS ON ALERT

The New Moon feast has begun, and Saul takes a seat at his **"usual place on the seat by the wall."**

- **Saul lived in a perpetual state of fear, always sitting with his back against the wall so he could watch for attackers.** There is a difference between being vigilant and being paranoid.

THE NEW MOON FEAST

Saul didn't think anything of David's absence the first day, assuming something happened, and he was ceremonially unclean for a day (Leviticus 22:3-7). So, when it happened on the second day, **Saul demanded a reason.**

- Jonathan told his father that **David had requested permission to return home**, which he granted.

A NEW LOW FOR EVEN SAUL

Saul asked Jonathan why **"Jesse's son"** had not come to the meal. Saul avoided using his name in this demeaning way to defame David.

- Saul's hatred spews over to his wife and son, calling Jonathan a **"son of a perverse and rebellious woman."** Saul claims that Jonathan must be an illegitimate child because his son would not betray him this way.

JONATHAN QUESTIONS HIS FATHER

Saul not only reveals his intentions to kill David, breaking the oath he made (19:6), but reveals his selfish motive of preserving the throne that God had taken from him.

- Jonathan defends David and what is right in the sight of the Lord. We see **Saul's hatred is so deep that he would kill his son for siding with David.**

THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN (1 SAMUEL 20:35-42)

EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE IN AN INSTANT

Jonathan gave the signal to David indicating that Saul wanted him dead and that he should flee. To show the degree of Saul's hatred, Jonathan shouted out, **"Hurry up and don't stop!"** Jonathan's servant was unaware that this directive applied to David and not him.

- David must have felt the crushing weight that **his life would never be the same.**

ONE SMALL INSTANCE

- In a moment, David's life changed forever. He could no longer go among the army of Israel. He could never return home. He was a fugitive on the run from a king who wanted to destroy him.
- **Our lifetime is made up of many small instances, and the course of life can be changed in a moment.**

THOSE SEEMINGLY LITTLE MOMENTS

- One careless night can change a life.
- One fit of anger can change a life.
- **One moment that can change a life for the better is the moment we realize we need saving. "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"** (Romans 10:9).