

David & Jonathan

1 Samuel 18:1—20:42



January 9, 2011



bible verse

Committing to memory

Proverbs 18:24

...there is a friend who sticks
closer than a brother.



story lesson

Bible story

After David had slain the Philistine champion, Goliath, "Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself" (1 Samuel 18:1). David and Jonathan became deep friends. They even exchanged robes! King Saul often would send David on military exploits and whatever it was, David did it so successfully, that Saul kept promoting him up the chain of command. Pretty soon David was promoted really high. But when the people began singing:

"Saul has slain his thousands;
and David his tens of thousands" (1 Samuel 18:7),

Saul got angry and jealous—"and from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David" (1 Samuel 17:9). And so an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul.

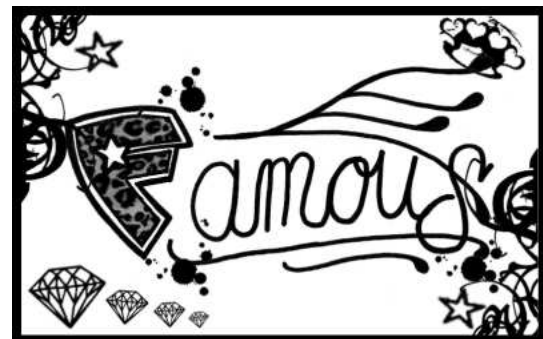


One time, he tried to kill David while David was playing the harp to ease Saul's discomfort. Saul threw a spear at David to try and pin him to the wall, but David eluded him—twice. "Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had left Saul" (1 Samuel 18:12).

Saul then tried to get David to marry one of his daughters to kind of subdue and control him. After a lengthy ordeal, David married Michal. But “when Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days” (1 Samuel 18:29).

David’s name became well known amongst the enemies of Israel.

Meanwhile, Saul told Jonathan and all his attendants to kill David. Jonathan turns around and warns David of Saul’s intention. He tells David that he is going to speak to his father on David’s behalf. So Saul and Jonathan go out into a field while David hides nearby. Jonathan says to his father:



“Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what has done has benefited you greatly. He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?” (1 Samuel 19:4-5).

King Saul vows that he will not put David to death and everything is as it was before, peaceful.



Yet again, in the same manner as before, David was playing the harp for Saul to ease his discomfort from the evil spirit, when Saul took the opportunity to try and kill him, but David eluded him and escaped. Saul sent men to stake out David’s house, but David caught wind of the plan and fled. His wife Michal deceived the soldiers sent to kill David and so angered her father, Saul, even further. David went to be with Samuel, but again, word traveled to Saul of David’s whereabouts. When Saul sent men to capture David, the Spirit of God came upon them and they prophesied (worshipped, spoke truth about God). So Saul sent another contingent of men and another and they all prophesied when they met up with David and Samuel. Then Saul himself went down to where David and Samuel were and he too began to prophesy.

David fled from that place and met up with Jonathan. “What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father that he is trying to take my life?” (1 Samuel 20:1). Jonathan doesn’t believe that Saul wants to kill David because he would have heard about it. Nevertheless, David said, “as surely as the Lord lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death” (1 Samuel 20:3).

David and Jonathan devise a plan to discover the truth. Jonathan will ask his father at the New Moon festival while David will be noticeably absent—hiding out in a field

nearby. If Saul answers favorably, then Jonathan will fetch David and they will know that Saul does not plan to harm David. If Saul answers harshly, then Jonathan and David will know that Saul plans to harm David. The signal was to be during an archery shoot. If the arrows landed beside David, then all is well. If the arrows landed behind David, then all is not well. David and Jonathan made a covenant together there:

"May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father. But show me unfailing kindness like that of the Lord as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth" (1 Samuel 20:13-15).

So, Jonathan and David made a covenant together, and they reaffirmed this oath because they loved each other deeply (1 Samuel 20:17).

Sure enough, during the New Moon festival, Saul noticed David's absence and answered unfavorably. When Jonathan tried to defend David: "'Why should he be put to death? What has he done?' But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David" (1 Samuel 20:32-33). Jonathan left in anger and went and signaled to David the signal the following morning. They met and "they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most" (1 Samuel 20:41).



They reaffirmed the oath they swore to each other and parted ways. Jonathan said to David just before they left:

"Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying the Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever. Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town" (1 Samuel 20:42).

All throughout this narrative of the escape and reinstatement of David with Saul and the escape and reinstatement, etc., the Lord's hand is upon David. He is protecting him at every turn. Even Saul's own flesh and blood are working against him—Jonathan and Michal. As much as Saul tries to thwart God's plan and God's man, he himself is thwarted at every turn. You would think that this would sink into to Saul's head and his actions, but as the story unfolds even further, you will discover that Saul and sin are a disease that infects and re-infects over and over again. Anger and jealousy are powerful combinations.





life application

Making it real

Compare and Contrast

Again, this story illustrates the continued literary comparison and contrast between God's choice in David and God's rejection in Saul. The two guys symbolize the two kinds of humanity present throughout the biblical story. As God is trying to recover his fallen creation and reconcile humanity back into relationship with Him, we see how difficult it is to attract and draw that fallen humanity. It is neat to play the story out a little further, like a window into the future, where Jesus is the fulfillment of the line of David! Interesting!

Friendship

Although not the primary focus of interpretation in this story, the bond that we see between David and Jonathan is neat. Even despite many different things that can and do stand in the way of their continued friendship, David and Jonathan stay closely connected with one another. They weep when they have to part ways for good.



questions

remembering

- 1. What was King Saul's son's name?** Jonathan
- 2. Why did Saul want to hurt David?** Because he was jealous of David's accomplishments and worried that people would like David more than him.
- 3. Who did David marry?** King Saul's daughter, Michal
- 4. How many times did Saul try to hurt David?** A lot!!
- 5. Why did God let Saul try to hurt David? Why didn't God stop Saul?**



coloring sheet

On the next page

IF MY DAD IS OUT TO GET YOU,
I WILL TRY TO HELP.

THANK
YOU.



David & Jonathan