



TAKE THE _____

1 Samuel 18:1, *As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*

- ✳ **The context suggests the reason Jonathan and David became soul-friends** was their mutual and passionate faith in God and their desire to honor Him.
- ✳ **Knit** | the word refers to “inseparable devotion”
- ✳ **This was a radical relationship**, because (humanly speaking) Jonathan was next in line to the throne, but God had already chosen David to be the next king. In that day, these two men would be rivals, not soul-friends.

1 Samuel 14:6b, *“for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few.”*

1 Samuel 17:47, *“All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”*

1 Samuel 18:3-4, *Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.*

- ✳ **View 1:** Giving David the robe was merely a symbolic act.
- ✳ **View 2:** Giving David the robe was an act of abdication.
- ✳ **If this wasn’t an act of abdication**, it was still significant. It foreshadowed the fact that David would become the next king of Israel, not Jonathan.

1 Samuel 20:31, *“As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!”*

- ✳ **Jonathan chose to initiate a friendship with David** that had a significant impact on David’s life, Jonathan’s life, and the entire nation.

DON'T HAVE AN _____

1 Samuel 18:5-7, *And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants. As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”*

- ✳ **This song represents a Hebrew poetic style** that puts an exaggerated number in the first line, and then increases it in the second. It was meant to link Saul and David together in victory, not honor one above the other. Saul is mentioned first, which is considered the position of honor.

1 Samuel 18:8, *And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?”*

1 Samuel 15:28, *Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.”*

- ✳ **Saul may be starting to realize that David is the “better neighbor”** who will replace him.

1 Samuel 18:9-10, *And Saul eyed David from that day on. The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand.*

- ✳ **Eyed** | or “kept a jealous eye”; “fearful eye”.
- ✳ **Instead of celebrating David’s achievement**, Saul chose envy and anger.
- ✳ **Saul’s jealous eye distorted his ability to see** David as God did.
- ✳ **God’s Spirit had departed Saul** and is replaced by a harmful spirit that would force itself upon him at times. The spirit caused bizarre behavior like raving, rage, and violence. However, if David played the harp, it brought relief to Saul.

Romans 12:15, *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*

PLAY YOUR _____

1 Samuel 18:11-12, *And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David evaded him twice. Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul.*

- ✳ **In this passage we see a contrast between Saul and David**: Saul used his hands to try to kill David, but David used his hands to serve and bless Saul.
- ✳ **Another contrast between Saul and David**: The Lord had departed from Saul but was with David. Saul senses that David is divinely protected from his attacks and that creates fear in him.

1 Samuel 18:13, *So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people.*

- ✳ **Goal 1** | To get David out of Saul’s presence.
- ✳ **Goal 2** | To put David in harm’s way.
- ✳ **The Result** | The more battles David fought, the more victory he had, and the more people loved him.
- ✳ **Despite Saul’s efforts to harm David**, David keeps serving the Lord, he keeps serving Saul, and is a blessing to all the people.
- ✳ **God’s favor shines brightly yet quietly**, protecting David from danger he was unaware. Might it imply that much of God’s protection is completely unknown to you?

BE _____ & TRUST GOD

1 Samuel 18:14-16, *And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him. And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.*

- ✳ **Saul knows he has rebelled against God**, and this is the source of the conflict between him and David. Instead of repenting, humbling himself, and submitting to God’s will, Saul chooses to continue fighting for his self-interests. Saul’s real issue is with God, not David.
- ✳ **John Mackay** | “Saul’s jealousy and fear put him in a state of perpetual tension, always ready to detect threats to his position. He is constantly reaching harsh and unreasonable assessments of the conduct of those around him and is so obsessed with his personal position that he is willing to use his family and associates to achieve his evil purposes.”

James 3:16, *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.*

Matthew 23:11-12, *The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

- ✳ **David exhibits humility**, keeps serving others, and waits on God’s plan and timing.

A FEW TAKEAWAYS

- ✳ Who needs me to take the initiative?
- ✳ Who can I give my robe to?
- ✳ Who can I rejoice with?
- ✳ Who can I play the harp for?