



COMMIT TO

1 Samuel 20:1-3, 5-8, *Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" And he said to him, "Far from it! You shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. And why should my father hide this from me? It is not so." But David vowed again, saying, "Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thinks, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."...David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit at table with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field till the third day at evening. If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the clan.' If he says, 'Good!' it will be well with your servant, but if he is angry, then know that harm is determined by him. Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with you. But if there is guilt in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?"*

- ✳ **Covenant** | A sacred partnership or promise between two parties. A covenant can be mutual or unilateral.
- ✳ **Covenant Of The Lord** | The Lord was witness to the covenant and will hold each party responsible for upholding the promises they have made.
- ✳ **Kindly** | hesed: The life-sustaining grace of God that makes it possible for humans to have a loving relationship with him and each other. It carries ideas of love, compassion, affection, loyalty, reliability, and faithfulness.
- ✳ **Dale Davis** | "It's not merely love, but loyal love; not merely kindness, but dependable kindness; not merely affection, but affection that has committed itself to another."
- ✳ **We are called to be those who have a loyal love for others**, and we also need those who have a loyal love for us. For David, that person was Jonathan.

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1 Samuel 20:14-17, *"If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the Lord, that I may not die; and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies." And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.*

- ✳ **In this story, it is David who needs the protection** Jonathan can provide. However, in the future their roles will be reversed, and it will be Jonathan's descendants who need the protection that David can provide. Knowing this, Jonathan asks David to reaffirm his commitment to show steadfast love.
- ✳ **The covenant that Jonathan (Crown Prince) and David (Anointed King)** have made with each other is radical. Relationships centered on God conquer the unhealthy expectations that culture often places on them.

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1 Samuel 20:24-30, *So David hid himself in the field. And when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food. The king sat on his seat, as at other times, on the seat by the wall. Jonathan sat opposite, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty. Yet Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him. He is not clean; surely he is not clean." But on the second day, the day after the new moon, David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has not the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?" Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem. He said, 'Let me go, for our clan holds a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. So now, if I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away and see my brothers.' For this reason he has not come to the king's table." Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?"*

1 Samuel 20:31-34, *"For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death. And Jonathan rose from the table in fierce anger and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had disgraced him.*

✳ **Jonathan has made a commitment to David**, but it will cost him in many ways, beginning with his relationship with his father, the king of Israel.

Luke 14:26, *If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple.*

✳ **Jonathan's life was not about his personal ambitions (to be king)**, but in following God's will, regardless of what it might cost him.

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1 Samuel 20:35-42, *In the morning Jonathan went out into the field to the appointment with David, and with him a little boy. And he said to his boy, "Run and find the arrows that I shoot." As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. And when the boy came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the boy and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?" And Jonathan called after the boy, "Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!" So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master. But the boy knew nothing. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter. And Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy and said to him, "Go and carry them to the city." And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most. Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'" And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.*

✳ **Neither David nor Jonathan wanted hostility with Saul**, but Saul made it unavoidable. Sometimes, people make peace with them impossible.

Romans 12:18, *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

1 Corinthians 11:25, *In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

✳ **The Christian does not have peace because things are peaceful** but because Someone greater than Jonathan has made a commitment to us.

John 16:33, *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

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John 15:12, *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

Romans 12:10, *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

1 Peter 4:10, *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11, *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

Hebrews 10:25a, *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...*

WHO DO I NEED TO COMMIT TO?

★ **PERSONAL DOMAIN:** my soul, relationship with God

★ **FAMILY DOMAIN:** parents, spouse, children, extended family

★ **VOCATION DOMAIN:** work, school

★ **COMMUNITY DOMAIN:** all other important spheres of my life