

David & Jonathan

Saul's Growing Hatred, David's Steady Loyalty, and *Getting By With A Little Help From Friends*

OR

What keeps you going when your world is falling apart?

Passages: 1 Samuel 18:1-19:17; 20:1-42

1Sam 18:1-5 – David, A Servant to the King and Friend of the Prince

18:1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. 2 From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. 3 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. 4 Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

1Sam 18:5-9 David Prospers, Saul's Anger Burns

18:5 Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well.

18:6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. 18:7 As they danced, they sang:

"Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands."

18:8 Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. *"They have credited David with tens of thousands,"* he thought, *"but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?"*

18:9 And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

1Sam 18:10-16 David Prospers, Saul's Anger Burns

18:10 The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand

18:11 and he hurled it, saying to himself, *"I'll pin David to the wall."* But David eluded him twice.

18:12 Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul. 18:13 So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. 18:14 In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. 18:15 When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. 18:16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

1Sam 18:17-19 War & Marriage – Saul Offers Merab

18:17 Saul said to David, *“Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the LORD.”* For Saul said to himself, *“I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!”*

18:18 But David said to Saul, *“Who am I, and what is my family or my father’s clan in Israel, that I should become the king’s son-in-law?”* 18:19 So when the time came for Merab, Saul’s daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.

1Sam 18:20-30 David & Michal – Love & A Strange Dowry

18:20 Now Saul’s daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. 18:21 *“I will give her to him,”* he thought, *“so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.”* So Saul said to David, *“Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law.”*

18:22 Then Saul ordered his attendants: *“Speak to David privately and say, ‘Look, the king is pleased with you, and his attendants all like you; now become his son-in-law.’”*

18:23 They repeated these words to David. But David said, *“Do you think it is a small matter to become the king’s son-in-law? I’m only a poor man and little known.”*

18:24 When Saul’s servants told him what David had said, 18:25 Saul replied, *“Say to David, ‘The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.’”* Saul’s plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.

18:26 When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king’s son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed, 18:27 David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines. He brought their foreskins and presented the full number to the king so that he might become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.

18:28 When Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, 18:29 Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days.

18:30 The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul’s officers, and his name became well known.

1Sam 19:1-7 Good Friends in High Places – David Saved Again

19:1 Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David 19:2 and warned him, *“My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. 19:3 I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I’ll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out.”*

19:4 Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, *“Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. 19:5 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?”*

19:6 Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: *“As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death.”* 19:7 So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.

1Sam 19:8-10 David Dodges Saul’s Spear - AGAIN

19:8 Once more war broke out, and David went out and fought the Philistines. He struck them with such force that they fled before him.

19:9 But an evil spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the harp, 19:10 Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.

1Sam 19:11-17 A Faithful But Idolatrous Wife

19:11 Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, *"If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed."* 19:12 So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped. 19:13 Then Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head.

19:14 When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, *"He is ill."*

19:15 Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, *"Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him."* 19:16 But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats' hair.

19:17 Saul said to Michal, *"Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?"*

19:17b Michal told him, *"He said to me, 'Let me get away. Why should I kill you?'"*

1Sam 20:1-4 Jonathan - A Faithful Friend

20:1 Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to take my life?"

20:2 ¶ "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without confiding in me. Why would he hide this from me? It's not so!"

20:3 ¶ But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."

20:4 ¶ **Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."**

1Sam 20:5-23 A Plan Devised

20:5 ¶ So David said, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon festival, and I am supposed to dine with the king; but let me go and hide in the field until the evening of the day after tomorrow.

20:6 If your father misses me at all, tell him, 'David earnestly asked my permission to hurry to Bethlehem, his hometown, because an annual sacrifice is being made there for his whole clan.'

20:7 If he says, 'Very well,' then your servant is safe. But if he loses his temper, you can be sure that he is determined to harm me.

20:8 **As for you, show kindness to your servant, for you have brought him into a covenant with you before the LORD. If I am guilty, then kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?"**

20:9 ¶ "Never!" Jonathan said. "If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn't I tell you?"

20:10 ¶ David asked, "Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?"

20:11 ¶ "Come," Jonathan said, "let's go out into the field." So they went there together.

20:12 ¶ Then Jonathan said to David: "By the LORD, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? 20:13 But if my father is inclined to harm you, may the LORD

deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away safely. **May the LORD be with you as he has been with my father. 20:14 But show me unfailing kindness like that of the LORD as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, 20:15 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.**"

20:16 ¶ So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD call David's enemies to account."

20:17 And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

20:18 ¶ Then Jonathan said to David: "Tomorrow is the New Moon festival. You will be missed, because your seat will be empty.

20:19 The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait by the stone Ezel.

20:20 I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I were shooting at a target.

20:21 Then I will send a boy and say, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to him, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here,' then come, because, as surely as the LORD lives, you are safe; there is no danger. 20:22 But if I say to the boy, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you,' then you must go, because the LORD has sent you away.

20:23 And about the matter you and I discussed — remember, the LORD is witness between you and me forever."

1Sam 20:24-34 Saul Out of Control Toward His Foe and His Friend

20:24 ¶ So David hid in the field, and when the New Moon festival came, the king sat down to eat.

20:25 He sat in his customary place by the wall, opposite Jonathan, and Abner sat next to Saul, but David's place was empty.

20:26 Saul said nothing that day, for he thought, "Something must have happened to David to make him ceremonially unclean — surely he is unclean."

20:27 But the next day, the second day of the month, David's place was empty again. Then Saul said to his son Jonathan, "Why hasn't the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?"

20:28 ¶ Jonathan answered, "David earnestly asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem.

20:29 He said, 'Let me go, because our family is observing a sacrifice in the town and my brother has ordered me to be there. If I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away to see my brothers.' That is why he has not come to the king's table."

20:30 ¶ Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?"

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!"

20:32 ¶ "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" Jonathan asked his father.

20:33 But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David.

20:34 ¶ Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the month he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David.

1Sam 20:35-42 A Sad Parting of Friends

20:35 ¶ In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him,

20:36 and he said to the boy, "Run and find the arrows I shoot." As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

20:37 When the boy came to the place where Jonathan's arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, "Isn't the arrow beyond you?"

20:38 Then he shouted, "Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!" The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master.

20:39 (The boy knew nothing of all this; only Jonathan and David knew.)

20:40 Then Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy and said, "Go, carry them back to town."

20:41 ¶ After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side [of the stone] and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together — but David wept the most.

20:42 ¶ Jonathan said to David, "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.

Sacred Story: The Life of David
Week 7
1Samuel 18-20

STORY SPECIFICS

1. Look back several verses. What happened just before this passage begins?

2. Who are the main characters in the passage? Name and, as much as possible, describe their immediate situation and state of mind and soul in this passage. What do you see about them that makes them “real people” to you?

Focus Questions:

a. How is Saul characterized in these scenes?

b. How does Saul respond to David’s prosperity?

c. What words are used to describe David as a reflection of God being with him?

d. Who comes to David’s aid against Saul (and how)?

e. How do they each respond to David’s prosperity?

f. What risks and/or sacrifices were involved in their responses?

3. What words or phrases do you see repeated in the passage?

4. What possible themes could this passage be addressing?

STORY INTERPRETATION

1. How does this story fit into the larger story of David and how God is working through him to establish His kingdom?

Focus Question:

a. What is the relationship between friendship and David's life as the anointed of God?

2. What do you understand of David from this passage that confirms him as a "man after God's own heart?"

3. David is a flawed man. What flaw(s) do you see in this passage, and how does David respond in situations where his flaws are exposed?

FROM DAVID'S STORY TO OUR STORY

1. How does this passage help you see what God could be doing in your story to accomplish something for His story (His kingdom)?

Focus Questions:

a. What do you do when it seems that life (and those in your life) treat you unfairly or are hurtful?

b. Describe a time you were attacked for doing the right thing.

c. To whom can/do you turn to for help/encouragement/assistance?

d. Where have you experienced sacrificial love in a relationship? Describe what makes that relationship(s) special.

e. How does true friendship impact your spiritual life? Do you have any such friends?

2. How does David's recognition of and response to his flaws compare with yours?

3. How might the Spirit be transforming you to look more like Christ?

What would be different about you?

How has the work of Christ provided what you need to be transformed?

How will you respond to Him?