

Oak Hill Baptist Church

26 May 2024

## 1 Samuel 19:18 – 20:24

### The LORD is Between You and Me Forever

**Do you seek counsel during difficult seasons? Do you struggle with pride and self-reliance? Do you listen when God gives you a warning?**

#### **Proverbs 20:18**

*18 Plans are established by counsel;  
by wise guidance wage war.*

#### **Proverbs 11:14**

*14 Where there is no guidance, a people falls,  
but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*

**vv. 19:18-24** David went to Samuel. David sought the counsel of a man of God. When we face difficult times, we have God's people here. We should always seek counsel from our pastors and each other.

The messengers sent by Saul arrived while Samuel was leading worship with a group of prophets. They came to do evil, but God intervened and the Spirit of the Lord came upon them and disarmed them. This happened three times, and Saul still didn't get the message. So, he went himself.

Saul was prideful. Saul trusted his own ways and not the ways of the Lord. So God humbled Saul. We will see this happen to another king later in the history of the Israelites, but this king isn't Jewish.

In Daniel chapter 4, God humbles the prideful king Nebuchadnezzar.

**Daniel 4:28-33** *28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" 31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.*

### Chapter 20

**vv. 20:1-23** *v.3b- 4 But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."*<sup>4</sup> *"Then Jonathan said to David, 'Whatever you say, I will do for you.'" These two men loved the Lord and that made their love for each other even stronger. Jonathan has already decided that he would follow the will of God and side with David. They both know David would be the next king of Israel.*

Jonathan still has hope, because his father told him in 19:6 that David would not be put to death. Saul was right, even if he didn't want to be.

David does share the hope Jonathan holds, perhaps his entire plan was to show Jonathan Saul's intentions, never thinking he could return with Jonathan. But, David needs to know. The Spirit came upon Saul at Ramah, and David needed to know if his heart had changed.

*"Thus were these two men bound together by ties of mutual love; may we be thus bound to Jesus! Oh, that there may be such love between us and our Lord as shall even excel the love of Jonathan and David!"*  
~ Charles Spurgeon

*Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve*

**We need more Jonathans. We need to be more like Jonathan. We need to love Jesus like Jonathan loved David. Will you speak truth for Jesus, about Jesus, because of your love for Jesus?**

**vv. 24-34 Do you share the gospel and speak truth to family members? Are you afraid of their reaction?**

Jonathan speaks truth in a difficult situation. As David predicted, Saul did answer Jonathan very roughly, but Jonathan did not falter. **We need more Jonathans. We need to be more like Jonathan. We need to be bold in sharing the gospel.**

**2 Timothy 1:7-8a** *7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord (emphasis mine).*

Jonathan spoke the truth to his father. We are to speak the truth as well, and the gospel is the only truth that can lead a person to salvation. We are sinners; we deserve hell, because God is a just God. We can be responsible for our sin debt, or Jesus can clear our names. But, we must repent, we must follow Jesus. We must believe and deny ourselves. Then, we must share the gospel with others.

Saul reacted very harshly, he even threw a spear at his son, but Jonathan did not give up on Saul. Jonathan stayed with Saul until the day they died. He was grieved, just as David had suggested in v. 3, but he stayed with his father. I like to imagine he continued to minister to his father and hope and pray that his father's heart would change.

**Who have you given up on that you need to keep trying with?**

**vv. 35-42** Jonathan's commands to the boy are obviously meant for David. David departs. David left his friend, his wife, his home, his job. It seems that David has lost everything.

Things look bleak for fugitive David, and he is God's chosen? Perhaps, you are in a season where things look bleak. If you're not, praise God, and be a Jonathan to a David. If you are . . .

I recently heard K. Edward Copleand say, "Either God works all things for good for those who love Him, or he doesn't. If He does, then the season you are in has a purpose, and God will use it to His glory if you trust in Him."

**Romans 8:27-28** *27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

**James 1:2-4** *2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

David, God's anointed, a man after God's own heart is about to go through a difficult season that many Bible scholars believe lasted around seven years. Why? So that he could grow, so that he could learn to rely only on God, so that he could become the king God needed him to be. Ultimately, he went through this season of his life so that God would be glorified by the way in which David responded.

Saul was prideful and relied on himself, but David was humble and relied upon the Lord.

**Do you trust in the Lord? Do you lay your cares upon Him? Or, do you try to do everything yourself, your own way?**

**Do you seek counsel in difficult seasons, and does that counsel start with God?**

*Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve*