**Week of Aug 4, 2019**

**1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7**

1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 And Saul took him that day and would let him go no more home to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. 5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. 2 But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself: 3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee. 4 And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: 5 For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? 6 And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain. 7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past\*.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s lesson we highlight the covenant relationship between two unlikely people; David, the anointed King of Israel, and Jonathan, the son of Saul the King of Israel. To understand the significance of David and Jonathan’s friendship, we must look back after David’s defeat of Goliath. Saul asked that David be brought to him. Jonathan was their and Jonathan made a friendship covenant with David. Jonathan was bound to David’s soul, which meant they had an inseparable devotion. The covenant made in was a formal agreement based on friendship and mutual loyalty. Some have said that Jonathan giving David his robe and other gear, Jonathan was transferring his claim of the throne to David. Since Jonathan was the son of Saul, Jonathan was the direct heir to the throne. However, David was anointed king by Samuel whose direction came from God. At first, Saul welcomed David and kind to him, but soon, Saul became jealous of David’s military success and thought David was a threat to him. Saul conspired to kill him and suggesting he hide from Saul. Jonathan showed his loyalty was to his friend David by telling David of his father’s devious plan to kill him and suggesting he hid from Saul. Jonathan went so far as to take a big risk and speak with his father, King Saul, concerning David. Jonathan and David’s friendship went beyond blood ties. Proverbs 18:24 refers to “a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Jonathan uncovered the plot that his father was still out to kill David, Saul tried to his own son Jonathan. Jonathan and David parted ways for David’s safety. We see the partying between two dear friends, but both pledged a lifetime commitment and loyalty to one another. Because of their covenant, Jonathan’s loyalty went from his dad to his friend David. Throughout this story of brotherly love, honesty and commitment, God was faithful to both Jonathan and David.

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