

David and Jonathan

November 9, 2025

1 Samuel 18:1–9

“After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father’s house. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. 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.

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.

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. As they danced, they sang:

*“Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands.”*

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?” And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.”

1. Review last week – David and Goliath

2. David returns from the battle field holding Goliath’s sword and head.

- a. Saul calls him into his private tent
- b. Probably discussing the encounter with Goliath
- c. Jonathan, Saul’s son was **privy to their talk**

3. Jonathan became one in spirit with David (**Right Then**)

- a. *“Loved him as himself”*

4. Jonathan was a valiant warrior himself

- a. **1 Samuel 14**, Jonathan and armor bearer snuck up on a Philistine outpost
- b. **vs. 14** *“In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre”*

5. Back to the text: **vs.3** *“And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.”*

- a. A covenant is a binding agreement between two or more parties
- b. When making a covenant,
 - i. one party gives the other party
 - ii. something of value
 - iii. to seal the agreement

- c. When **God was making a covenant** with the people of Israel, He gave them the 10 Commandments
 - d. When God made a **new covenant with us**,
 - i. He gave us Jesus
 - ii. (blood of the New Covenant)
 - e. Today, when people enter into a covenant (**contract**)
 - i. they sign a legal document.
 - ii. **Put down collateral**
 - 1. Down payment
6. **vs. 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.”*
- a. This was his pledge to David
 - b. **No greater honor** could be given between warriors
 - i. than to present someone
 - ii. their sword and bow.
 - c. The two items that **they depended upon**
 - i. to defend themselves with
 - d. The **robe** and the **tunic** were specifically
 - i. worn by the royal family
 - ii. representing their lineage to the throne
 - e. **Jonathan recognized** that David was the one worthy of leading God’s people
 - i. That David would lead by his faith in God
 - ii. Greater faith than anyone in the kingdom
 - f. Jonathan **surrendered** his position
 - i. to someone more worthy of the role

7. SAUL OUT OF JEALOUSY - WANTED TO KILL DAVID

1 Samuel 18:6–9

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- a. Jealousy is **sinister sin**

- a. It doesn't always manifest itself right away
- b. It brews
- c. **Eventually it comes out** in very indiscrete ways
 - i. You can't turn your thoughts
 - 1. away from that person
 - ii. Avoidance
 - iii. Gossip
 - iv. Slander - Character assassination
 - v. Malicious actions

1 Samuel 19:1-3

"Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David 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. 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.'"

8. FRIENDS STAND UP FOR FRIENDS.

1 Samuel 19:4-7

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. 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?"

Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death."

So, Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before."

- a. When Someone is **being wronged**,
 - i. True friendship intervenes
 - ii. Defend them regardless of the cost
 - 1. a sister in LA (Aurora) – I was silent
 - 2. To this day I am haunted by this
- b. Jonathan brings David to Saul
 - i. Bringing parties together
 - 1. Resolves conflict
 - 2. Forges unity

9. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TRUCE AND CHANGE OF HEART

Samuel 19:9–10

“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, 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.”

10. SAUL NEVER DEALT WITH HIS SIN

- a. He shelved it for a time
- b. Unless it is truly repented of
 - i. **It will always return**

11. Sometimes reconciliation **isn't** possible

- a. Always because one (or both) parties
 - i. **not** willing
 - 1. to forgive
 - 2. or over-look an offense
 - ii. Saul's jealousy **didn't** allow him to be reconciled
 - iii. That's what sin does
 - 1. It separates / creates a divide between people
- b. There comes a point in time
 - i. When reconciliation **isn't** possible
 - ii. When spears are being thrown at you
 - 1. **Best thing to do is run/escape**
 - iii. I've had to do **run/escape** several times
 - 1. Sticking around will only hurt you
 - 2. And the people around you
 - iv. **The wrong thing to do is**
 - 1. To gossip
 - 2. Slander
 - 3. Or create a faction
- c. David **didn't** go to the army
 - i. Full of people who
 - 1. Loved him
 - 2. Supported him
 - 3. Respected him
- d. **He turned to God** with the injustice he was incurring

Psalm 35:4–10

“May those who seek my life

*be disgraced and put to shame;
 may those who plot my ruin
 be turned back in dismay.
 May they be like chaff before the wind,
 with the angel of the LORD driving them away;
 may their path be dark and slippery,
 with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.
 Since they hid their net for me without cause
 and without cause dug a pit for me,
 may ruin overtake them by surprise—
 may the net they hid entangle them,
 may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.
 Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD
 and delight in his salvation.
 My whole being will exclaim,
 “Who is like you, O LORD?
 You rescue the poor from those too strong for them,
 the poor and needy from those who rob them.”*

Psalm 35:19–25

*“Let not those gloat over me
 who are my enemies without cause;
 let not those who hate me without reason
 maliciously wink the eye.
 They do not speak peaceably,
 but devise false accusations
 against those who live quietly in the land.
 They gape at me and say, “Aha! Aha!
 With our own eyes we have seen it.”
 O LORD, you have seen this; be not silent.
 Do not be far from me, O Lord.
 Awake, and rise to my defense!
 Contend for me, my God and Lord.
 Vindicate me in your righteousness, O LORD my God;
 do not let them gloat over me.
 Do not let them think, “Aha, just what we wanted!”
 or say, “We have swallowed him up.”*

12. TRUE FRIENDSHIP HAS NO BOUNDARIES

1 Samuel 20:1–4

*“Then David fled from Natioth 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?”
 “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!”*

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.”

Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do for you.”

13. SOMEONE YOU CAN GO TO IN A TIME OF NEED

- a. You can confide in
- b. Built on loyalty
- c. **This is where you find out** who are your true friends
- d. I’ve had what I thought were friends
who I confided with
who later went and told other people
what was said in confidence
 - i. Heart breaking
- e. There are times that what is said in confidence
needs to be shared with others
 - i. But you must encourage openness
 - ii. Let them know that you will need to share with someone else
 - iii. Who can help with this situation
 - iv. Examples:
 - 1. Rape
 - 2. Incest
 - 3. Domestic violence
 - a. Someone else could (or has been) be hurt

vs. 4 *“Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do for you.”*

14. THE MARK OF A GOOD FRIEND.

- a. How can I help
- b. What can I do
- c. No request is too great for me to do to help
- d. Apostle Paul’s heart

Colossians 1:24–25

“Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness”

Philippians 1:21–26

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn

between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.”

1 John 3:16–20

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.”

1 Samuel 20:5–14

“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. 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.’ 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. 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?’”

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“Never!” Jonathan said. “If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn’t I tell you?”

David asked, “Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?”

“Come,” Jonathan said, “let’s go out into the field.” So, they went there together.

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? 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.”

15. LOYALTY GETS TESTED

- a. When loyalty is question
 - i. You are challenged to pick a side
 - 1. Family persecution
 - 2. Friends mock you
 - 3. Work reprimands you
 - 4. Even when church leaders unfairly treat you
 - ii. Jesus had to deal with this:

Mark 3:20–21

“Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

Mark 3:31–35

“Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

“Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

1 Samuel 20:14–17

“But show me unfailing kindness like that of the LORD as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, 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.”

So, Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD call David’s enemies to account.” And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.”

16. FRIENDSHIP NEEDS REASSURANCE

- a. Our **insecurities** take over
- b. **Circumstances** overwhelm us
- c. Spiritual friendships are needed
 - i. **Unlike** worldly friendship
 - 1. Cut throat – self preservation
- d. **What drew me to the kingdom**
 - i. Never witnessed Christian love before
 - ii. People were genuine
 - iii. Trustworthy
 - iv. Sacrificial

John 13:34–35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 Samuel 20:41–42

“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.

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.”

17. TRUE FRIENDSHIP STIRS OUR EMOTIONS

- a. World says, “*Real Men Don’t Cry*”
- b. Boloney
- c. Jesus wept (John 11:35)
- d. Peter wept

Mark 14:72

“Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.”

- e. Paul wept

2 Corinthians 2:4

“For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.”

- f. Timothy wept

2 Timothy 1:3–4

“I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.”

g. Spiritual people shed tears

- i. [SIN]
 - ii. Repentance
 - iii. Joy
 - iv. Sadness
 - v. Triumph/Victory
 - vi. Gratefulness
- h. Tears cleanses the soul

Psalms 126:4–6

*“Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow in tears
will reap with songs of joy.
He who goes out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with him.”*

1 Samuel 23:15–18 – David’s on the run from Saul

“While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.” The two of them made a covenant before the LORD. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.”

18. PERSONAL AMBITION MUST GIVE WAY TO GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY

Luke 9:46–48

“An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest.”

Luke 22:24–27

“Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves”.

- a. **God makes His choices**
- b. God sets his own timetables
- c. **Jonathan recognized that** though he was next in line to the thrown
 - i. God had selected David for that role
 - ii. He willingly accepted his role
- d. **Not everyone has the gift of leadership**
 - i. It is a spiritual gift

Romans 12:6–8

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

- ii. We just need to use the gifts God has given us

2 Samuel 1:17-18

“David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, and ordered that the men of Judah be taught this lament”

2 Samuel 1:25–27

*“How the mighty have fallen in battle!
Jonathan lies slain on your heights.
I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother;*

you were very dear to me.

*Your love for me was wonderful,
more wonderful than that of women.*

*“How the mighty have fallen!
The weapons of war have perished!”*

19. WHEN A CLOSE BROTHER OR SISTER DIES

- a. There is both joy and sadness
- b. Sadness that the close **bond of friendship is lost**
- c. Joy that they are receiving the **reward for their faithfulness**
 - i. They will be with Jesus
 - ii. Be in a place where there will be no
 - 1. Sadness
 - 2. Sorrow
 - 3. Tears
- d. As Christians we recognize
 - i. This life not intended to be permanent
 - ii. God had a bigger plan in mind
 - iii. Death isn't final
 - 1. Unless you are not a faithful Christian
 - iv. Death is our final reward
 - v. Our crowning achievement