

8/2/09

A Heart-Broken Departure
1Sam. 20:1-42

David who was seen as the hero of Israel by all, as well as Saul, has now become the object of Saul's hatred.

The jealousy of Saul for David began as the women sang, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands". 1Sam. 18:7

Saul became angry and displeased saying, 'Now what more can he have but the kingdom?' So Saul eyed David from that day forward." 1Sam. 18:8-9

Saul has attempted to kill David directly by throwing a spear at David, a number of times, indirectly by the hands of the Philistines and by giving direct command to kill David, even attempting to take him in his own house.

* All who associate with David from this point on are in danger of their lives, as he has become a fugitive and enemy, in the eyes and heart of Saul.

This the last meeting of David with Jonathan, to discover the true intent of Saul towards David, comprised of three movements:

- I. The flight of David from Saul to meet with Jonathan. vs. 1-23

- II. The return of Jonathan to carry out the plan of David. vs. 24-34
- III. The warning of Jonathan for David to flee for his life from Saul. vs. 35-42

I. The flight of David from Saul to meet with Jonathan. vs. 1-23

- A. The plan of David was to secure the help of Jonathan. vs. 1-11
 1. The desperation of David is voiced to Jonathan. vs. 1-4
 - a. The journey to meet Jonathan. vs. 1
 - 1) David was fleeing from Saul, he fled from Naioth in Ramah. vs. 1a
 - 2) David went and spoke to Jonathan. vs. 1b
 - a) The location without doubt is to Gibeah of Saul, the residence of Saul and Jonathan.
 - b) About 12 miles from Ramah, the town of Samuel.
 - 3) David poured out his heart to Jonathan, asking certain things. vs. 1c-f
 - a) "What have I done?" vs. 1c
 - b) "What is my iniquity?" vs. 1d
 - c) "And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" vs. 1e-f

- b.** The response of Jonathan to David.
vs. 2
- 1)** Jonathan assured David's safety,
"So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die!" vs. 2a-b
 - a)** He had been told by his father, he would not harm David. 1Sam. 19:1-7
 - b)** He was probably not aware of the last attempt on David's life and seeking for him at Naioth, giving his father the benefit of the doubt. 1Sam. 19:8-10, 22
 - c)** These were the very words, the men of Israel said to Saul, when he was going to kill his own son Jonathan for eating some honey. 1Sam. 14:45
 - 2)** Jonathan assured David his father always disclosed everything to him, "Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me." vs. 2c-d
 - 3)** Jonathan assured David, he was wrong, "And why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!" vs. 2e-f
- c.** The frustration of David, led him to repeat the truthful matter by an oath, assuring him, he was wrong. vs. 3

- 1)** Under oath David revealed Saul's deceptiveness, "Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.'" vs. 3a-f
 - 2)** Under a double oath David declared the certainty of his death, "But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death." vs. 3g-i
- d.** Jonathan being gripped by the seriousness of the matter, placed himself at David's disposal. vs. 4
- 1)** To submit to his will, "So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire." vs. 4a-b
 - 2)** To work on his behalf, "I will do it for you." vs. 4c
 - 3)** When a person or society believes in God, there is a certain stability, as people used to swear on the Bible in court, to tell the whole truth.
 - 4)** Now in America, we don't believe in God or the Bible, so the majority of politicians and people have no integrity!

2. The plan of David to reveal Saul's intent to kill him was shared with Jonathan. vs. 5-11
 - a. David proposed his plan to expose the evil of Saul. vs. 5-6
 - 1) David suggested he not show up for the feast to eat with the king, "And David said to Jonathan, "Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day at evening." vs. 5
* With burnt offerings and rejoicing. Num. 10:10, 28:11-15
 - 2) David suggested that if Saul said something about his absence, Jonathan was to tell him, he had gone home to a family sacrifice, "If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked permission of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.'" vs. 6
 - 3) David said the response of Saul would be the proof of his true intent towards him, "If he says thus: 'It is well,' your servant will be safe. But if he is very angry,

- then be sure that evil is determined by him." vs. 7
- b. David reminded Jonathan of their covenant. vs. 8-9
 - 1) David pleaded for Jonathan's loyalty by the covenant they had made, "Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you." vs. 8a-b
 - a) The word kindly "cheched", means loving-kindness, associated with covenant. 1Sam. 18:3-4
 - b) The mention of God, oaths and covenant permeate the account!
 - 2) David pleaded his innocence to Jonathan, "Nevertheless, if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?" vs. 8c-e
 - a) He would rather die a swift death at the hands of a friend.
 - b) Instead of the hands of Saul, his enemy, having no mercy on him.
 - 3) Jonathan convinced of David's innocence, emphatically pledged his loyalty to David, "But Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! For if I knew certainly that evil was determined by my father to come

upon you, then would I not tell you?" vs. 9

- 4) David asked Jonathan, how he would let him know, "Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me, or what if your father answers you roughly?" vs. 10

* The word roughly "qaheh" means cruel or severe.

- 5) So Jonathan told David to follow him, "And Jonathan said to David, "Come, and let us go out into the field." So both of them went out into the field." vs. 11

B. The plan of Jonathan was to render help to David was affirmed by Jonathan to warn him about Saul's intent to kill him. vs.12-23

1. Jonathan gave David to possible scenarios, sealing it by covenant. vs. 12-17

- a. The positive one is first, "Then Jonathan said to David: "The LORD God of Israel is witness! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day, and indeed there is good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you, "may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan." vs. 12-13a

- 1) The word sounded "chaqar" means to investigate or examined.

- 2) Take note of the number of times Yahweh is mentioned by both men, this is the basis and heart of their relation!

- b. The negative is second, "But if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father." vs. 13b-e

2. Jonathan renewed the covenant they had made. vs. 14-17

- a. David was not to be hostile towards Jonathan, "And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die." vs. 14

* The word kindness "heced" appears again.

- b. David was to not retaliate against the family of Jonathan, when he became king, "but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." vs.15

- 1) This was the custom of kings to kill all the descendents of the previous

ruler, lest they would rebel against the new king.

- 2) Again the word kindness “heced” appears.
- c. Jonathan then confirmed all in covenant, “So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “Let the LORD require it at the hand of David’s enemies.” vs. 16
* Jonathan was saying the Lord would equally hold accountable the enemies of David.
- d. Jonathan then had David affirm the covenant, “Now Jonathan again caused David to vow.” vs. 17a
- e. Jonathan’s motive was not suspicion or doubt regarding David, but love for David, “because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.” vs. 17b-c

C. The plan of Jonathan was to provide David with a sign that would inform him of the intent of Saul towards him. vs. 18-23

1. David was to be ready on the prescribed day. vs. 18-19
 - a. David would be absent on the first day, “Then Jonathan said to David, “Tomorrow is the New Moon; and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty.” vs. 18

- b. David was to be at the set location on the third day. “And when you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel.” vs. 19
2. Jonathan would then declare the sign for David to know if it was good or evil. vs. 20-23
 - a. He would launch some arrows, “Then I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target.” vs. 20
 - b. He then expressed first, the words to signal his safety, “and there I will send a lad, saying, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I expressly say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you; get them and come’ --then, as the LORD lives, there is safety for you and no harm.” vs. 21
 - c. He expressed secondly, the words to signal his harm, “But if I say thus to the young man, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you’ --go your way, for the LORD has sent you away.” vs. 22
 - d. He ended by expressing their faithful devotion to each other, “And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the LORD be between you and me forever.” vs. 23

Illustration

The following two statements from Abraham Lincoln tell of his integrity leading a war-torn nation:

“I desire to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth. I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me.”

I do the very best I know how: the very best I can: and I mean to keep on doing it to the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me will not amount to anything. If the end brings me out all wrong, then a legion of angels swearing I was right will make no difference.” #2541

Application

1. Have you ever been slander or accused of something falsely?

- a. It is horrible, there is a sense of outrage and wanting to lash back, instantly.
- b. The most important thing is to wait, be patient and inquire as to the truthfulness of what has been heard.

* “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” Ja. 1:19-20

2. Have you ever been slandered or accused falsely and you confided in a false friend?

- a. Things go from bad to worst.
- b. The one who you thought was going to help you, has in fact added to your hurt.
- c. The choosing of our friends, should be with discretion and time.

* “Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of **trouble** is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.” Prov. 25:19

3. Have you ever been in a place where you have been slandered or falsely accused but you had a friend who believed you and came to your aid?

- a. You know what a relief it is to have someone to talk to about the matter.
- b. You know the meaning of a true friend, in time of trouble.
- c. You become a better person, to help others in similar situations.

* “A wicked messenger falls into **trouble**,
But a faithful ambassador brings health.”
Prov. 13:17

The flight of David from Saul to meet with Jonathan was urgent!**II. The return of Jonathan to carry out the plan of David. vs. 24-34**

- A. The gathering of Saul and Jonathan at the feast. vs. 24-29

1. The first day of the feast. vs. 24-25
 - a. The fugitive David hid in the field. vs. 24a
 - b. The guest at the feast were seated. vs. 24b-25
 - 1) “And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast. Now the king sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall.” vs. 24b-25c
 - 2) “And Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul’s side.” vs. 25d-e
* In view of respect, Abner was Saul’s commander and cousin!
 - 3) “But David’s place was empty.” vs. 25f
2. There was no response by Saul at the absence of David the first day. vs. 26
 - a. He was silent, “Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day.” vs. 26a
 - b. He considered David to be ceremonial unclean, “for he thought, “Something has happened to him; he is unclean, surely he is unclean.” vs. 26b-e
* Lev. 7:19-20, 15:16, 18
3. There was a response by Saul about the absence of David, on the second day. vs. 27
 - a. Saul took note of David’s absence again, “And it happened the next day,

- the second day of the month, that David’s place was empty.’ vs. 27a-c
- b. Saul questioned Jonathan, “And Saul said to Jonathan his son, “Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?” vs. 27d-f
4. The response of Jonathan to Saul was according to the plan. vs. 28-29
 - a. Jonathan told Saul he had allowed David to visit his family, “So Jonathan answered Saul, “David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem.” vs. 28
 - b. Jonathan feigned to quote words of David, “And he said, ‘Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.’ Therefore he has not come to the king’s table.” vs. 29
- B.** The evil intent of Saul towards David revealed at the feast. vs. 30-34
1. Saul lashed out at Jonathan. vs. 30
 - a. First, telling him he was being unnatural and treacherous to his own family. vs. 30
 - 1) The insult insinuated Jonathan as illegitimate and his mother

- unfaithful, “Then Saul’s anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, “You son of a perverse, rebellious woman!’ vs. 30a-d
- 2) The insult was an accusation of disloyalty to Saul and his mother, “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?” vs. 30e
- b.** Second, telling him that Jonathan was doing himself harm, “For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom.” vs. 31a-c
- 1) The pronoun “you” is emphatic, but Jonathan was not seeking to be king.
 - 2) Jonathan would go to the wood to strengthen David saying, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.” 1Sam. 23:17
- c.** Third, commanding Jonathan to deliver David to him, “Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die.” vs. 31d-e

- 1) Jonathan could not do such a thing, he knew David was innocent.
 - 2) Jonathan could not be one with the evil of his father.
- 2.** Jonathan defended David to his father, Saul. vs. 32
- a.** Jonathan asked the reason for wanting to kill David, “And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, “Why should he be killed?” vs. 32a-c
 - b.** Jonathan asked to be informed of the crime of David, “What has he done?” vs. 32d
- 3.** Saul manifested his cold murderous heart. vs. 33
- a.** He attempted to kill Jonathan, “Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him.” vs. 33a
 - b.** He made very clear to Jonathan his intent for David, “by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.” vs. 33b
- 4.** Jonathan responded as a loyal friend, while being a broken hearted son. vs. 34
- a.** He was emotionally upset at his father’s conduct, “So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month,” vs. 34a-b

- b. He felt bad for David, not himself, “for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully.” vs. 34c-d

Illustration

A legend illustrating gossip and malicious slander concerns a Hindu god who enchanted an arrow which flew around killing people. But after it had killed everyone, leaving no new victim, it came back to destroy the god. The god spent the rest of his life running from the arrow he had sent against others. #5168

Application

1. The believer, in various difficult situation, must ultimately put their trust in the Lord.
 - a. I must look to God for my strength and wisdom.
 - b. I must seek God on what to say & not to say.
 - c. I must trust God to be my ultimate defender, knowing he is a holy God.
 - * “These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.” Prov. 6:16-19

2. The viciousness of people is unlimited, when it comes to hurting others and when Christians are carnal and self-willed they are no different.
 - a. The desire to get revenge is a slow burning fire in the heart of an individual.
 - b. It does not go away and when they see the person or hear their name in conversation, their anger erupts within them.
 - c. The more they continue in their anger, it instills bitterness, resulting in the potential for greater evil.
 - * “The heart knows its own **bitterness**, And a stranger does not share its joy.” Prov. 14:10
 - * “A **false** witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies will not escape.” Prov. 19:5
3. Then there is the worst of all situations, when slander, lies and false accusations are brought forth by family members.
 - a. Sometimes it happens because a person has become a Christian and there is a sense of betrayal by the family member regarding their religion.
 - b. At other times, it comes over money matter when a will is drawn up and siblings are lied or pitted against one another, to be in greater favor of the will or the will is contested by unbelievers and Carnal Christians.

- 1) “For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire; He blesses the **greedy** and renounces the LORD.” Ps. 10:3
 - 2) “So are the ways of everyone who is **greedy** for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.” Prov. 1:19
- c. At other times it because the family members are well educated and are agnostics or atheist and they are outraged that their brother, sister or parent could fall for such foolishness as believing the Bible.
* “A **false** witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies shall perish.” Prov. 19:9

The return of Jonathan to carry out the plan of David was crucial!

III. The warning of Jonathan for David to flee for his life from Saul. vs. 35-42

- A. The warning of Jonathan to David was carried out as planned vs. 35-40
1. Jonathan went to the field with the boy. “And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad was with him.” vs. 35
 2. Jonathan gave the commands to the boy. vs. 36

- a. He shoot the arrows, “Then he said to his lad, “Now run, find the arrows which I shoot.” As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.” vs. 36
 - b. He spoke the words of danger to David, “When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, “Is not the arrow beyond you?” vs. 37
 - c. He recalled the boy, “And Jonathan cried out after the lad, “Make haste, hurry, do not delay!” So Jonathan’s lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master.” vs. 38
 - d. He kept the boy unaware of the plan, “But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter.” vs. 39
 - e. He dismissed the boy, “Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, “Go, carry them to the city.” vs. 40
- B. The heart-broken departure of David and Jonathan was not their plan. vs. 41-42
1. The meeting of David and Jonathan was a sad one. vs. 41
 - a. The posture of David was one of being humbly thankful to Jonathan, “As soon as the lad had gone, David

arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times.” vs. 41a-d

- 1) The was a gesture of submission to a superior.
 - 2) David was acknowledging the greatness of his friend for what he had done.
- b.** They both expressed their love for each other, “And they kissed one another; and they wept together.” vs. 41e-f
 * Again, there is nothing in the text to imply homosexuality.
- c.** The greater lamentation was by David, “but David more so.” vs. 41g
- 1) David knew how difficult it must have been for Jonathan to do this.
 - 2) David knew Jonathan loved him and was a loyal friend.
 - 3) David would be losing the fellowship of this close friend.
- 2.** The departure was in view of their covenant. vs. 42
- a.** Jonathan blessed David, “Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD.” vs. 42a-b
- 1) Their friendship was based on their relation to God and truth.
 - 2) Their commitment was till death.

- b.** Jonathan expressed the basis for their commitment, “saying, ‘May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.’” vs. 42c-e
- 1) God would hold them responsible for their mutual commitment.
 - 2) God would hold them responsible for their mutual commitment to each others families.
- c.** Jonathan and David parted, “So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.” vs. 42f-g

Illustration

It has been said, “Wise men talk because they have something to say: fools, because they have to say something.” **#6386**

* There are times when words are insufficient to communicate ones love, the only appropriate thing is to demonstrate it through sweep loving tears!

Application

1. The difficult times in life will reveal a person’s true friends.
 - a.** When you need a baby-sitter desperately, while never abusing your friendship and wearing it out.
 - b.** When your car has broken down and a friend is will to run you around for that week.

- c. When you have had an argument with your mate and your friend exhorts you to be spiritual and obey the Lord.

* “but **exhort** one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Heb. 3:13

- 2. The running of times produces quality friends, when their friendship is based on their mutual commitment to Jesus.

- a. They hold each other accountable.
- b. They love each other unconditionally, without compromising with sin.
- c. They are ready to serve the other.
- d. They rejoice in the good of the other.

* “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another.” Jn. 13:35

- 3. The difficulties and tragedies of life will bring many heart breaking moments.

- a. The loss of a family member, through death.
- b. The loss of ones home, through various circumstances.
- c. The loss of one’s health.
- d. The loss of good friends, moving far away.

* “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be **thankful**.” Col. 3:15

The warning of Jonathan for David to flee for his life from Saul was devastating!

Conclusion

The last meeting of David with Jonathan discover the true intent of Saul towards David, comprised:

- I. The flight of David from Saul to meet with Jonathan was urgent!
- II. The return of Jonathan to carry out the plan of David was crucial!
- III. The warning of Jonathan for David to flee for his life from Saul was devastating!