

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday October 14, 2018. "David- Let's Make a Deal".

A. Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

B. Sunday's Message.

Sunday Pastor Lamar was back in the pulpit, and brought us one of the strongest and most pointed messages in this David series.

The message Sunday centered around the idea of covenant. He gave several examples thru history in the scriptures of different types of covenants. Listen to the message online at the website if you want to hear about those. But the basic definition or understanding of covenant back then was that of a "cutting". A sacrificial animal was cut in two, the two parties making the agreement would walk between the two different halves of the sacrificed animal, (brutal huh?), and then those making the covenant would be bound to each other. The sacrificing of animals was a very common occurrence, and the death and blood would signify the seriousness of the commitment not only to each other, but to the actual promise made. Covenants were a big deal.

Lamar went on to say that **God used covenants to gather, guide, and grow his people.**

C. Scripture.

A familiar story to many of us, is the relationship between David and Saul's son, Jonathan. The scriptures described their relationship by the phrase, "*their souls were bound*", which simply means there was an inseparable devotion to each other.

So...let's start light.

Think of a friend you had an unbelievable close relationship with.

What was it about that relationship that made it so different and special?

There was a 'covenantal' relationship between David and Jonathan, which means there were specific commitments in this relationship between the two.

Read this passage in **1 Samuel 18:1-4** about the making of this covenant between the two of them.

Notice the ceremonial and intentional ritual the two of them went thru to show their commitment to each other. It's obvious that both David and Jonathan took their vows and commitment to each other very seriously and wanted to make sure the other was aware of their loyalty.

D. Application.

Lamar said there were four specific commitments made between David and Jonathan in this covenant. We'll describe each one and then talk about it.

1. A commitment to 'shield' or protect.

David needed protecting from Jonathan's dad, Saul. And many times in covenants we make we need to be a 'shield' for a person or the church. The person needs us to protect them from whatever they're facing in their life.

2. A commitment to 'share' or be responsible for your part of the covenant.

One-sided relationships are tough. But sometimes it just happens that 'takers' seem to find 'givers' to form relationships with. We must always make sure we are a giver and take seriously the call to uphold our part of any relationship. This is the example of **Jesus...the ultimate 'giver'**.

3. A commitment to 'serve' or to put a greater cause before yourself.

David's and Jonathan's covenant wasn't just to each other, but also to a greater cause. When we make covenants or commit to be in relationship, whether with others or some organization, we have to remember we not only are bound to another, but we represent God and are accountable to honoring that commitment also.

4. A commitment to 'support' or when needed you can be counted on to be there.

There are times within a relationship that you just need that other person to be there for you. Or the tables are turned and you need to be there in a tangible way for the other person. It's easy to say; *"I'll pray for you"* or *"call me if you need anything"*. It's something significantly more meaningful when we show up and walk with them thru those tough times.

Each of these 'understandings' are so important in honoring and upholding what a covenantal relationship actually looks like. This applies to those personal relationships in our life, and also our commitment to those organizations we commit to.

So let's just think about each of these and what it would look like to do each of them well.

What is your understanding or what each of these means?

What does it mean to do each of these well?

What difficulties do we encounter in trying to honor each of these commitments?

What things could we do in our relationships to do these well?

In the story of David, we see that he benefited from a covenantal relationship in his life. He was able to do and accomplish all he did because of the commitment of his friend Jonathan. And **we get to represent Jesus and serve others** in the same way.