

I Samuel 20-22 – 10 March 2022

“What is Loyalty?”

Introduction

- *David has been anointed king to replace Saul, but God hasn't dethroned Saul yet (about 15 years)
- *David won't take the throne until II Samuel begins
- *David is now finished spending time in the presence of Saul playing music & helping the army
 - *b/c Saul is envious and openly seeking to kill him
- *Harry S. Truman speaking of Washington, DC said, “If you really want a friend in this city...buy a dog”
- *Now we've seen Saul's envy, but there's a lot more loyalty to the story of David than there is envy
- *David will now be on the run from King Saul for almost 10 years of his life – (reminds us of Joseph)
- *David will be depending on those loyal to him, but especially those that are loyal to God
- *Today let's look at 3 attributes of loyalty**

1st attribute of loyalty is that it provides compassion & kindness (Chap 20:1-42)

Read Vs 1-4

1. David is rightfully concerned for life
 - a. Jonathan vows to protect David with his insider knowledge
2. David thinks Saul is holding back telling Jonathan of his envy of David
 - a. So Jonathan vows to help David

Read Vs 5-7

1. David determines to use the new moon feast as test to prove to Jonathan that Saul wants him dead

Read Vs 8-11

1. David says if John isn't interested in helping him prove his innocence, then just kill him now, to which Jonathan says of course he'll help
2. David is concerned that Jonathan may be imprisoned by Saul
 - a. But Jonathan has plan we'll hear about now

Read Vs 12-17

1. Read Prov 17:17
2. Jonathan intends to rescue David from Saul for good, and he wants a covenant w/ David to protect Jonathan & his lineage...to which David agrees

Read Vs 18-23

1. This is Jonathan's plan to communicate to a hidden David, Saul's intention of good or evil
2. Notice their devotion is ground in God's devotion to each other!

Read Vs 24-26

1. 1st day Saul chalks it off as David must be ceremonially unclean by some means (Lev 23:3-7)

Read Vs 27-31

1. (Vs 31) Saul tries blackmailing Jonathan into not protecting David by holding back right to rule
2. (Vs 30) Saul also smears Jonathan's character claiming he a homosexual with David
3. This isn't the way to gender loyalty!!!

Read Vs 32-34

1. B/c of Saul's illogical & shameful outburst, John storms out – any sense of loyalty here is lost

Read Vs 35-40

1. So Jonathan covertly says goodbye to David
2. They'll only see each other 1 more time

Read Vs 41-42

1. Final meeting to say goodbye in person
2. Their loyalty screams of kindness for each other

2nd attribute of loyalty is that it provides provision & protection (Chap 21:1-22:4)

Read Vs 1-2

1. David lies to cover up his running from King Saul b/c he didn't know who the priest was loyal to

Read Vs 3-6

1. Hallowed bread – changed out every Sabbath
2. Priest was willing to save David's life, if David was at a minimum not abhorrent man
3. Jesus' disciples went thru the field plucking the wheat to eat for they were hunger

- a. Read Mark 2:25-27 – So the Sabbath was designed to help them not hinder them
- b. Same for the bread – God isn't making rules for prevention, but principles for provision

Read Vs 7

1. It will be seen that Doeg's loyalties are w/ Saul

Read Vs 8-9

1. He gets Goliath's sword for protection on the run

Read Vs 10-12

1. David initially thought the Philistines would have sympathy & give asylum but became concerned

Read Vs 13-15

1. David's plan to play mad got him out of there
2. He didn't get the asylum he wanted
3. No protection or loyalty from God's enemies

Read Vs 1-2

1. Oh to have people that support the truth and YOU even when you're in the minority!

Read Vs 3-4

1. While endangered, David still protects his family

3rd attribute of loyalty is that it is only as good as the one you're loyal to (Chap 22:5-23)

Read Vs 5

1. God moves David by speaking thru a prophet

Read Vs 6-8

1. Saul tries guilt-tripping and bribing his servants into being loyal to him!
2. How about earning their loyalty by loving & protecting them

Read Vs 9-11

1. Doeg provides Saul with the info he needs about David's visit to the priest
2. So Doeg decided his allegiance is w/ Saul

Read Vs 12-15

1. Priest admits only to helping a desperate man.
2. He knew not of Saul calling David an enemy
3. These priests were simply loyal to God & the truth

Read Vs 16-19

1. The servants of Saul wouldn't punish & kill these innocent priests so Doeg, the spy, does it for Saul killing 85 people
 - a. David wrote of Doeg (Read Psm 52:7)
2. Praise God these men of the king wouldn't kill the innocent b/c they were MORE loyal to God & truth rather than king & country

Read Vs 20-23

1. David feels guilty in the priest's death, his lying added to this situation.
2. It's good of David to comfort someone going thru the same thing that he's going thru
3. Abiathar becomes High Priest for David
 - a. So we'll see David establish yet another very loyal relationship based on compassion and protection

Conclusion

So in the church, we have so much more loyalty than President Truman and his dog in Wash, D.C.

Living in a world of envious Sauls, we have a chance to build up our loyalty for God's people

- 1. Loyalty provides compassion & kindness**
 - a. When you're loyal, it's easy to be kind
 - b. When you're loyal, you want to comfort
- 2. Loyalty provides provision & protection**
 - a. Faithfulness prompts you to improve others situation b/c you want to
- 3. Loyalty is only as good as the one you're loyal to**
 - a. The place you put your trust & loyalty makes all the difference
 - i. If you trust that I will be there to comfort & protect you the moment you die, you'll be greatly disappointed
 - ii. If you trust that Jesus Christ has the power & ability to comfort & carry you into eternal life, you'll be delighted