

“An Arrow to the Heart!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. **Communion:** (after 2 song)

1. We are called to live **sacramentally** (sacred/holy) like *broken-bread* & *poured-out wine*
2. Communion is a reminder that **the blood** which He shed for you **takes you...**
 - a) **Takes you within the veil.**
 - b) **It takes you to the place of constant access to His presence.**
 - c) **It takes you *outside the camp* to the place of consecrated availability for His plan.**
 - (1) It speaks of **our access** forever by the blood into His presence; **but also our availability**, in the path of *separation*, for the *plan* & *purpose* of God **to be** fulfilled in each of our lives.

B. **Last week:** We had David fleeing from Saul & God kicking out all the crutches he was leaning on, **which** left **only God** to lean on.

C. **This week:** David finds Jonathan and tells him of Saul's determination to kill him. Jonathan devises a plan to find out if this is true and warn David.

1. *Last chapter* David was singing himself out of his problems by faith (**Ps.59:16**) **But** the mere fact that he *rejoiced in God* has **not relieved the pressure at all** - indeed, it seems to have **intensified!**
2. He emotionally cries out to Jonathan...**What have I done???**
3. **Catch David's mood/passion in this conversation.**
4. Even a man like David, *under pressure*, can come to a place where he **doubts** his **friends** & also doubts **God**. (**Read** 1-11)

II. **AN ARROW TO THE HEART!**

A. **THE CAUSE OF DAVID'S FEARS!** (1-23)

B. **THE PROBLEM!** (1-11)

C. In spite of Jonathan's attempts to reassure him, David is convinced that Saul is still trying to kill him.

D. **Are these symptoms found in your life today?** - Have the pressures of some **situation**, some **circumstance**, some **trial**, brought you to **doubt** *the promise of God, & the Word of God, & His purpose for your life?*

1. This is **a natural progression** that when a man begins to loosen his hold upon **the promise of God**, he begins to lose his contact with **spiritual friends**.

- a) A **chill** in our relationship with heaven is always followed by a **chill** in our relationships down here.
- b) It's sheer **pressure** is *absolutely overwhelming* & throws us **completely off balance**, **until** we learn the lesson that God has for us right **in** the middle of it.
- E. (10) It's in vs.10 that we realize, in David's question, **that Jonathan** here showed greater faith in the promise of God, than did **David** at this point.
- F. **THE PROMISE!** (12–17)
- G. Jonathan promises to warn David about his father's plans, and both men make a sacred vow to be loyal to each other, whatever the cost.
- H. (14,15) Jonathan **turns it around**, *your going to make it, & I might not*.
1. So when you do, here's what I want you to do... (what encouragement!)
- I. (14) ESV If I am still alive, show me the **steadfast love** of the Lord, that I may not die.
1. That **steadfast love** is the **Royal Love** talked about by Paul in 1 Cor.13:4-7 NLT
Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.
- J. This promise between the 2 of them, spared **Mephibosheth** his life (2 Sam.9).
- K. **THE PLAN!** (18–23) [**show arrow**]
- L. I'll shoot arrows right next to you if all is OK...*uh, oh ok!* (That's trusting a friend!)
1. **However**, if they **wing over your head**, it is goodbye, **until we meet in heaven!**
- M. **What a fateful moment!** Just a matter of **a few yards** was going to decide David's future.
1. **Either** he would go back into Saul's house, to the **comfort** of Jonathan's friendship; **Or**, he'd have to go **into exile** as one cast upon the mercy of God, w/not a friend in the world to turn to!
 2. **One of these ways was to be God's path for David, the path that would lead him eventually to the throne of Israel. [there's no doubt to David's preference!]**
 - a) **No doubt he would have chosen:** Jonathan, Mical & his own home, his position reinstated in Saul's house & army, living in royalty.
 - b) **That surely was preferred to the alternative:** a life in exile, a fugitive, an IDP, living out in the ruggedness of unknown mountains, day after day, month after month, year after year.
 - (1) **The decision, however, was out of David hands completely!**

- (2) He only got to **stand by the stone of Ezel!** And **wait** for an arrow from heaven unerringly to hit the target - **an** arrow that would tell him either to go out into the wilderness **or** back into the palace of Saul.
- c) We can call this *the stone of David's destiny!* [lit. *The stone of departure*]
3. In the margin interprets it "*the stone that shapeth, or sheweth the way*".
- a) When you sit & wait at **Ezel**, you fully realize, the decision is **not** in your hands.
- b) *Is this a lesson God is trying to teach you this morning?*
4. See, **Jesus** is our *stone of destiny*. 1 Pet.2:4 **As you come to him**(Jesus), **a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious**.
- a) The burden of the *pressure* of circumstances, whatever it is, may be rolled away as you **bring it & leave it** at His feet!
- b) *What else can you do?* All you can do is what David did, as he **took his stand** at his stone of destiny & **waited**.
- c) But, it's actually **a great thing** to be in a position like that, when all you can do is to **take your stand** at Calvary, & **wait!**
- (1) There are so many paths, & naturally some *far-more-attractive* than others
- (2) *Left to chose our way, what fools we would make of ourselves.*
- (3) There is only **one way** that leads to **the throne**, & that is **God's plan** for your life & mine.
- d) *Therefore*, "**stand still & see the salvation of God.**" **Wait!** The decision is beyond you; the battle is not yours but God's; let Him decide. [hide in His wounded side!]

N. **THE CONFIRMATION OF DAVID'S FEARS!** (24-42)

O. **DAVID'S ABSENCE & SAUL'S ANGER!** (24-34)

P. At the new moon festival Saul notices that David is not present at the meal. Jonathan makes up the excuse that David has gone to Bethlehem to take part in a family sacrifice.

Q. (30) *These words describe his son as the lowest of lows!* [had to sting!]

1. He was saying, "*your not my son at all*", for my son wouldn't betray me like this. **Therefore** Jonathan you're slandering your own mother & saying she was a common prostitute. "*Your not my son. You must be illegitimate!*"

R. (33) **David & Jonathan lied to Saul, & it almost cost Jonathan his life!**

1. It has been well said, "Faith is, living without scheming."
2. **In the midst of the trials of life, we must beware lest we become weary, stop trusting, & start scheming.**
 - a) And right now you can *judge David*, **or** perhaps you've schemed your way out of a situation before?

S. A furious Saul not only states his intention to kill David but actually attempts to *murder Jonathan* for befriending him!

T. (34) *Wow, grieved for David?*...not grieved that your dad just *chucked a spear at your head* & called you “*a son of a perverse, rebellious woman!*”

U. *Well, Jonathan is pretty convinced now.* And so with heavy heart he takes his lad with him & went outside to shoot the arrows.

V. **JONATHAN’S ARROWS!** (35–42)

W. In accordance with their plan, Jonathan shoots some arrows to warn David. So David meets with Jonathan 1 final time to affirm his loyalty & say good-bye before he leaves.

X. The arrows weren’t from Jonathan’s hand alone, for he was but the instrument.

1. The arrows went beyond David to say, “*Goodbye, till we meet in glory.*”
“*Is not the arrow behind you?*” shouted Jonathan.

2. *Picture David now*, crouched behind the rock of **Ezel**...*waiting...anticipating...* his destiny hanging in the balance.

a) We watch on in *slow motion*. David tensely watches its flight as it arches over him, landing behind him. :(

b) *What was his feelings? What was the message to his heart? He knew it meant the Lord* was sending him away. *It wasn’t left to chance, this was the will of God.*
In fact, this arrow was shot by the very hand of God, & behind its flight was the loving purpose of God for his harassed child.

(1) If David dared to *linger now*, after this word from heaven, *he’d lose* his life, the crown, & *everything* God had for him.

(2) David’s life was being emptied from vessel to vessel, *like wine*, in order to preserve its *freshness* & keep it away from *going musty*.

(a) Every *crutch*/prop taken away; *now he must stand alone!*

(3) *Before him* lay the rugged mountains & dark valleys, w/no promise of relief from the pressure.

(4) *Behind him* was the comfort of friendship, of human love, of home, any restoration of honor.

(a) *Now, nothing - but God!!!*

3. Certainly the hardest thing of all was to lose the **crutch** of Jonathan’s love.

a) *They met only once more*(23:16) before Jonathan died.

b) *Here 2 friends cut asunder* in the sovereignty of God!

- c) As his UCLA football team suffered through a poor season in the early 1970s, head coach **Pepper Rodgers** came under intense criticism and pressure from alumni and fans. Things got so bad, he remembers with a smile, that **friends** became hard to find. “My dog was my only true **friend**,” Rodgers says of that year. “I told my wife that every man needs **at least two good friends** - and she bought me another dog.”

Y. Let these arrows *wing over your head* this morning:

1. Lk.9:23 If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
2. Mt.10:37 Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
3. Lk.14:33 Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Z. **End:** The message of the *arrow beyond you* is not primarily geographical, it is **spiritual!**

1. We are called to live sacramentally like *broken bread & poured-out wine*.
 - a) Let God empty you out that He may save you from becoming *spiritually stale & lead you ever onward!*
 - b) He's always calling us to pass beyond the thing we **know** into the *unknown*.
 - c) **Remember**, A **throne** is God's **purpose** for you; A **cross** is God's **path** for you; **Faith** is God's **plan** for you. (Alan Redpath; *The Making of a Man of God*)
2. I said during communion that Jesus' **blood takes you**...
 - a) **Takes you** within the veil.
 - b) **It takes you** to the place of constant access to His presence. *But also like David...*
 - c) **It takes you** *outside the camp* to the place of consecrated availability for His plan.
 - (1) It speaks of **our access** forever by the blood into His presence; **But also our availability**, in the path of *separation*;
For the **plan & purpose** of God, **to be** fulfilled in each of our lives.