

Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

June 13, 2021

Day 1: I Samuel 19:1

Saul spoke to his son Jonathan and to all his servants about killing David. But Saul's son Jonathan took great delight in David.

Saul's envy over David's accomplishments has pushed him over the edge, so much so that his descent into madness has taken a deadly turn. Saul is candid about his plans because he cannot believe that his son has a greater loyalty to David than to him as father. Jonathan has become so close to David that without being blood relatives they have become brothers.

Question: What is the difference between keeping a confidence and keeping a secret?

Challenge: Can you find the event that began the downfall of Saul? I Samuel 15 - was God fair?

Scripture: I Samuel 18

Day 2: I Samuel 19:2-3

Jonathan told David, 'My father Saul is trying to kill you; therefore be on guard tomorrow morning; stay in a secret place and hide yourself. I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you; if I learn anything I will tell you.'

Going to tell David about Saul's plans brings Jonathan into great danger. David is intended to overhear the conversation between Jonathan and Saul because David will be hiding in the same field that the conversation is taking place. Jonathan is proving to David that he can be trusted. David had cause to worry because for Jonathan to go against Saul was more than doing what was right. He is not only going against his father but also his king. The consequence for Jonathan would be death if it was known he was helping David.

Question: Was Jonathan being disloyal? Should he have told his father that he was against the decision to kill David?

Challenge: Can you think of a good reason Saul might have had to kill David?

Scripture: I Samuel 20

Day 3: I Samuel 19:4-5

Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul, saying to him, 'The king should not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been of good service to you; for he took his life in his hand when he attacked the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced; why then will you sin against an innocent person by killing David without cause?'

Jonathan points out to his father how great a service David has done to the kingdom and the king. Jonathan calls Saul's plan to kill David a sin - a sin for which bloodguilt would be assessed to Saul and his house. The guilt would not just rest upon Saul but his family also. When David attacked and killed Goliath all rejoiced. David's crime was that he was praised by others. David did not do anything to replace Saul. Jonathan's

speech is a good reminder to us to not let our anger overtake our reason.

Question: Do you think David listened to the crowd and began to believe he was greater than Saul?

Challenge: Do you recall what other service David did for Saul before the meeting with Goliath?

Scripture: I Samuel 23

Day 4: I Samuel 19:6-

Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan; Saul swore, 'As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death.' So Jonathan called David and related all these things to him. Jonathan then brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

Saul, in a moment of sanity, heeds his son's words. We need to listen when someone tells us to wait once before acting. Jonathan is not taking sides but is trying to keep both his father and his "brother" alive and in relationship. It is Jonathan's plan to bring the two together so that they might be a family in more than name or blood. Jonathan has expanded the idea of family. There is more to being a family member than the accident of birth.

Question: What responsibility does a brother have toward the other brother?

Challenge: Have you been involved in a reconciliation between family members? How did it go?

Scripture: I Samuel 26

Day 5: I Samuel 19:12-13

Jonathan said to David, 'By the LORD, the God of Israel! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or on the third day, if he is well disposed towards David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? But if my father intends to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan, and more also, if I do not disclose it to you, and send you away, so that you may go in safety. May the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father.'

Jonathan gives assurance to David by spelling out specifically how he will assist David. Jonathan was being both disloyal to his king and to his father. He poses for us the question: when is it OK to go against our family or our leaders? When a person asks us to trust them when they are about to do something that looks to be dishonest or hurtful, we must be able to discern if the action is in fact right. If leaders today (political, financial, medical and spiritual) want our cooperation in activities and actions that we do not fully understand then some kind of relationship must be built. Leaders do not need to be right all the time but they need to be honest and to put the needs of those they lead in the forefront; not their own needs. David could not have believed Jonathan if they had not developed a relationship.

Question: Why do you think God anointed Saul to be king?

Challenge: If God's blessing left Saul because he was disobedient, how can we as a church be sure we are being obedient and keep God's blessing

Scripture: II Samuel 1:1-37

Day 6: I Samuel 20:16-17

Thus Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, 'May the LORD seek out the enemies of David.' Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him; for he loved him as he loved his own life.

The final assurance is given to David. Jonathan not only assures him for the present but for the future of his (Jonathan's) family. The covenant goes into the future. It reminds us of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. They finished the document by saying "And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." The pledge was for the future because they were putting up their families' futures as a guarantee for their commitment to the cause of the Revolution. Jonathan proved himself to be a real brother to David by guaranteeing support for David with his own future.

Question: What does it take for you to trust someone enough to vote for them as President?

Challenge: Look up the oath that congressional leaders and presidents take for their offices.

Scripture: II Samuel 2:1-7