

## **Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 2009: A Story of Two Men: 1 Samuel 20:1-17**

### **It's the story of 2 men**

One is the eldest son of a king.....The other is the youngest.....of a farmer

**The first** will die on the battlefield.....fighting alongside his father

The other will go on to be the greatest king that Israel ever had

### **They are....Jonathan and David**

**2 men** whose friendship.....has been revered down through history.....

**A great example** ....of a true, untarnished relationship between two respected and liked men  
...who were both at that time...prominent warriors in the land of Israel.

## **We know heaps about David....but**

**The great** Scottish Preacher, Alexander Whyte, said this of Jonathan

***"Handsome and high mettled, full of nerve and heart, Jonathan was the pride of the army and the darling of the common people. His comrades, for his beauty of person and for his swiftness of foot, were wont to call him The Gazelle."***

**Such a quote serves to remind us**.....that in Jonathan we have no weakling

But a young man similar in many ways to David

**In fact** we read about an act of Jonathan in 1 Sam 14.....that occurred b4 David

**that** rivals ...battle against Goliath for its audacity and trust in the Lord

**Jonathan** ...without his father's knowledge.....took on a whole company of....

with just his armour bearer by his side.....and he threw them into panic

**What follows** is his comment before going into battle:

***Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."***

**It's obvious that David** and Jona had a lot in common....& it was such....brought about friendship

**They were both brave**....courageous.....effective warriors.....but especially they shared

A strong.....fairly uncommon belief.....in the power of God to use them

**It's interesting to note**.....that it was after David had defeated Goliath.....that friendship began

**Jonathan saw** that David operated against....in exactly the same way he had operated against..

**By trusting** in the Lord to give the victory.....and they came together as kindred spirits

In 1 Sam 18:1 we read:

***After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.***

**This relationship** was no one way thing....**David** responded to Jonathan in a similar way  
And when circumstances caused them to finally be parted for ever...we read in 20:41ff

***David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.***

**During** the period of time between...these 2 statements of friendship...many years elapsed  
...and lots of very messy stuff happened....between David and Saul

**And the one thing** that stands out.....in a society.....increasingly fragmented and godless  
**Is the firm** commitment of both these.....**1<sup>st</sup> to God.....and 2<sup>nd</sup> to one another**

- **The evil one was** using the weakness of king Saul.....to run rampant thro the kingdom  
**And sharing** the front position in the battle against him.....stood Jonathan and David  
..and they both suffered because of that

**Recently I have been attending....Revelation studies**

**Two truths** have stood out for me: ...

**1<sup>st</sup>—Believers are in a battle situation**

...and the more we love the Lord...**The more**...seek to obey Him.... to serve Him...harder the evil

**I see that very clearly in the stories....of David and.....**

**2<sup>nd</sup>...A very clear dividing line**....between those who are of God's Kingdom....and those...remain..

**It is something** Jesus said would happen.....and would impact families

**He said in Matthew 10:34-36**

***"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn***

***" 'a man against his father,***

***a daughter against her mother,***

***a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law -***

***a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'***

**The story of Jonathan and David reveals**.....that such a division....always been the case

**Again and again** we see Jonathan.....standing up against his father....because Jonathan knew that God's plan was for David to be king.....and for him to support David....**this angered Saul**

We read this in 20:30-31

***Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? <sup>31</sup> As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!"***

**But Jonathan** had realized long before.....that **God's plan** for David was far different to Saul's **He had** come to accept....That David would be God's king.....and he would help him attain that

Way back in 18:3-4 we read:-

***And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.***

- **This is nothing less** than Jonathan handing over....his place as future king to David
- **For not** only does he give his robe...but even his sword....his bow...his belt

**It seems that Jonathan** had this knowledge from God....about his calling...that of David **In a sense** he reminds me of John the Baptist.....said of Jesus in John 3:30

**He must increase, but I must decrease**

**There's so much more**....in this story of.....that we haven't the time to cover **But I believe** that there are two things we can learn from Jonathan:-

**1<sup>st</sup>: He was willing to be what God wanted him to be**

It wasn't what his father...or others wanted for him  
Neither was it the easiest option by any means.....It definitely wasn't the safest  
But in his heart he knew....that God's way...was the only way.

**Are you willing** before God today...to be .....to go.....to do.....what God wants ?

Whatever that means....(**An Answer to Prayer>>Hot Illustrations p20**)

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Because he was willing**....Jonathan was **used by God**...to help David thro.....  
a most difficult phase of his life

**If Jonathan** had not been there for David.....we can surmise that David would not have survived

**It was costly for Jonathan—**

It involved putting David's needs before his own....**But it was successful**

**Is there someone....that God wants you to be a Jonathan to**

**May well be a fellow Christian**.....who may not survive w/out the support you can give  
**Has God placed** you here for that reason.....To be a Jonathan to them!

**Is He has**....then you can be sure that the decision wont be an easy one  
**The devil** will put many barriers before you...as he did with Jonathan

**It will no doubt be costly**.....demanding at times.....unacceptable to others

**But you can be sure of this**.....IF God calls you into a task....He will enable  
He will protect.....and He will achieve through you His glorious ends.