



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Queens & Kings: King Jonathan”

Ps Stephen Mansfield – June 8, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- How do you usually react when somebody criticizes you?
- What do you struggle with the most: self esteem or pride?
- Who is the person who currently has the greatest impact in your life? Why?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

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Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, “Come, let’s go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.” “Do all that you have in mind,” his armor-bearer said. “Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.” (1 Samuel 14:6-7 NIV)

- Jonathan and his armor bearer successfully struck down numerous enemy soldiers, which in turn led to a route of the enemy's army that day. This was an example of how valiant he was.

Jonathan was heir to the throne. He was an inspiring leader, who was loved by the people and the army. He had proven himself by his daring exploits, which were born of his faith in God.

David, on the other hand, had great potential, but still was a youth. At the time he slew Goliath, he was still a young teenager. The Scriptures reveal he was courageous, but still immature and not yet ready to fulfill everything the Lord purposed for him, as evidenced by his response to his brother's criticism.

- *When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.” “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” (1 Sam 17:28-29 NIV)*

Jonathan was so impressed with David after he had killed Goliath, that he was knit in his soul to him. He initiated a covenant with David, and they were bonded in divine purpose and friendship.

- *As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine’s head. “Whose son are you, young man?” Saul asked him. David said, “I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem.” After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. 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. (1 Sam 17:57-58; 18:1-4 NIV)*

Jonathan was loyal to David when he was under threat from King Saul. Jonathan did so at risk to his own life. He defended David. He made himself available to David to do whatever David needed. And he made another covenant of commitment to David.

- *Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there..." Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?" (1 Samuel 19:1-2, 4-5 NIV)*
- *Then David fled from Nain at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to kill me?"... Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you..." Then Jonathan said to David, "I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, that I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow..." So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the Lord call David's enemies to account." And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself. (1 Samuel 20:1, 4, 12-13, 16-17 NIV)*

Jonathan understood and embraced the maxim that "You have a destiny from God, but your destiny is fulfilled by investing in the destinies of others."

Jonathan prophesied that David would be king and was willing to be second to him. He then made a third covenant with David.

- *While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh. (1 Samuel 23:15-18 NIV)*

With each new level of commitment, Jonathan made a new covenant with David. First it was when he was drawn to David, the teenage champion over Goliath. Then it was when David was under threat of death from Jonathan's father, the king, and David needed Jonathan's help. Now it was when Jonathan prophetically discerned that David was called of God to be king, and Jonathan was willing to do what was necessary to see that come to pass.

Jonathan went on and eventually lost his life in battle as he honored his father and the armies of Israel. But he had done what was necessary to protect David, and set the stage for him to become king. Though Jonathan never became Israel's king, he was a king in spirit, and he invested in David in such a noble manner that he helped establish the great royal line of King David, from whom the Messiah was later descended. Many divine promises made to David are especially fulfilled in his descendent, Jesus Christ! Thank God for people like Jonathan! May we become like him!

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Who is walking alongside with you? Who warns you of danger in your life?
- In whom are you investing? What can you do to make that person great?
- How do you help others to find their strength in God?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would guide us in investing in others.
- That God would help us be vulnerable and transparent with one another.
- That God would deliver us from the evils to which we are vulnerable.