

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 20:1-42

“What are you afraid of?” – September 3rd, 2017



Introduction

With David on the run for his life, not sure who he can trust or where he can turn what hope does he have? Because of the covenant he made with Jonathan ([1 Samuel 18:3-4](#)) David knew he could expect compassion, help, and kindness. When his world was falling apart and he was surrounded by people that hated him, a covenant made all the difference. The covenant between Jonathan and David highlights the friendship between the two but chapter 20 is more about discipleship than friendship. Just as Jonathan is left with the decision of who will be king, we too are faced with the decision each day: will God's anointed (Jesus) be king over our life or will we choose self-rule?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. The safety covenant provides (20:1-17)
- II. The choice covenant demands (20:18-34)
- III. The peace covenant affords (20:35-42)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 20:1-17](#)

A covenant is a promise between two parties to keep certain commitments or obligations for that relationship. Just like a marriage covenant brings two people together, at the heart of a biblical covenant is a relationship characterized by faithfulness and loyalty in love¹. When David was in trouble, his covenant with Jonathan provided him safety when all around him was falling apart. How does a church covenant help to provide security and shape relationships to have steadfast love? When a group of Christians within the membership of a church love each other sacrificially and faithfully, how does that help their gospel witness in the community? What are practical ways you can show the steadfast love (which God has shown to us) to members of our church this week?

Additional reading: John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 12:21-26

- 2) Read [1 Samuel 20:18-34](#)

Due to his dad's blood-thirsty pursuit of David, the covenant Jonathan made with David meant he would have to choose between his dad and David. Because David is a

¹ For more on this, see [God's Kingdom thru God's Covenant](#), by Wellum and Gentry

foreshadowing or type that points us to King Jesus, Jonathan's choice is an illustration about the choice we too must make. The cost of following Jesus can come from *within* our relationships in the church: the time, money, and energy it takes in loving each other. Or the cost can come from *outside* the church: hostility, confusion, and persecution for our choice of following Christ. What difference does knowing and remembering the steadfast love of God *for us* make in us showing steadfast love toward *others*? The more we see the value of knowing Christ, the easier the choice of accepting the cost is. How can we help each other taste, see, and remember the beauty and value of knowing Christ?

Additional reading: Matthew 10:24-39, Matthew 13:44, Philippians 3:7-8

3) Read [1 Samuel 20:35-42](#)

Jonathan's call to 'go in peace' knowing he's surrounded by trouble shows us the peace that covenant affords. What is the difference between the peace the world offers and the peace that Christ offers us? What makes it difficult to go beyond knowing about such peace to experientially living *in* the peace God provides? Take some time to think about or to write down the things that rob you of peace. Then turn that list into a prayer list, praying as a means of casting your burdens onto God's shoulders to know a peace that transcends understanding (see [Philippians 4:6-7](#)).

Additional reading: John 16:33, Hebrews 6:14

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>