

THE CONTEXT:

- David is now fleeing from King Saul who is determined to kill him.
- Saul has attempted to kill David on multiple occasions (CH 19), but has failed each time because the Lord delivered David.

THE STORY:

¹ Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, “What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?” ² And he said to him, “Far from it! You shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. And why should my father hide this from me? It is not so.” ³ But David vowed again, saying, “Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thinks, ‘Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.’ But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death.” ⁴ Then Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you say, I will do for you.” ⁵ David said to Jonathan, “Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit at table with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field till the third day at evening. ⁶ If your father misses me at all, then say, ‘David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the clan.’ ⁷ If he says, ‘Good!’ it will be well with your servant, but if he is angry, then know that harm is determined by him. ⁸ Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with you. But if there is guilt in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?” ⁹ And Jonathan said, “Far be it from you! If I knew that it was determined by my father that harm should come to you, would I not tell you?” ¹⁰ Then David said to Jonathan, “Who will tell me if your father answers you roughly?” ¹¹ And Jonathan said to David, “Come, let us go out into the field.” So they both went out into the field.

“The covenant of the Lord” (v8)

- David is asking Jonathan to “deal kindly” (show steadfast love) to him because of this “covenant of the Lord” that they have with one another.
- This is the covenant that was made by Jonathan to David in chapter 18, where Jonathan promised to be loyal to David for the rest of his life.

¹² And Jonathan said to David, “The Lord, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? ¹³ But should it please my father 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, that you may go in safety. May the Lord be with you, as he has been with my father. ¹⁴ If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the Lord, that I may not die; ¹⁵ and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” ¹⁶ And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies.” ¹⁷ And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul. ¹⁸ Then Jonathan said to him, “Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. ¹⁹ On the third day go down quickly to the place where you hid yourself when the matter was in hand, and remain beside the stone heap. ²⁰ And I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I shot at a mark. ²¹ And behold, I will send the boy, saying, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I say to the boy, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you, take them,’ then you are to come, for, as the Lord lives, it is safe for you and there is no danger. ²² But if I say to the youth, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then go, for the Lord has sent you away. ²³ And as for the matter of which you and I have spoken, behold, the Lord is between you and me forever.”

The covenant of "steadfast love" (v14-17)

- Jonathan asks David to show him and his future family "the steadfast love of the Lord"
- A covenant is made between the two, promising future and forever "steadfast love."

²⁴ So David hid himself in the field. And when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food. ²⁵ The king sat on his seat, as at other times, on the seat by the wall. Jonathan sat opposite, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty. ²⁶ Yet Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him. He is not clean; surely he is not clean." ²⁷ But on the second day, the day after the new moon, David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has not the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?" ²⁸ Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem. ²⁹ He said, 'Let me go, for our clan holds a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. So now, if I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away and see my brothers.' For this reason he has not come to the king's table." ³⁰ Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? ³¹ For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." ³² Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" ³³ But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death. ³⁴ And Jonathan rose from the table in fierce anger and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had disgraced him.

Saul's fury (v30)

- Saul is furious, and ultimately tries to kill his own son Jonathan, because he has "chosen the son of Jesse" to his own shame.
- Jonathan is demonstrating his covenantal loyalty and love to David, even at the cost of his own kingdom.

³⁵ In the morning Jonathan went out into the field to the appointment with David, and with him a little boy. ³⁶ And he said to his boy, "Run and find the arrows that I shoot." As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. ³⁷ And when the boy came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the boy and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?" ³⁸ And Jonathan called after the boy, "Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!" So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master. ³⁹ But the boy knew nothing. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter. ⁴⁰ And Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy and said to him, "Go and carry them to the city." ⁴¹ And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most. ⁴² Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'" And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

Jonathan's comfort (v42)

- Jonathan comforts David, in all of his grief, by reminding him of the covenant.

THE POINT

- The covenant relationship between Jonathan and David is being highlighted in this story.
- David, under the threat of death, being chased down unjustly by the king, runs to Jonathan because Jonathan is bound to him by covenant

- *Covenant*: A binding agreement between two or more parties, which contains strong promises and sure vows (marriage).

- David, in his request for Jonathan's help, appeals to the covenant (**v8**) made with Jonathan back in chapter 18.
- Jonathan, in his request for David's future help, makes a "new covenant" with David (**vv14-17**), promising that "the steadfast love of the Lord" will be shown to him and his future family.

This covenant is bound by the Lord (v8, v16, v23, v42)

- God is in and behind the covenant. This is what gives both David and Jonathan confidence, security, and peace in the midst of their fears and worries.

APPLICATION

The covenant relationship between Jonathan and David should strongly remind us of our covenant relationship with God.

* In Christ, our covenant keeper, we have a covenant relationship with God where He has promised us steadfast love forever.

Hebrews 9:11a-12, 15a (ESV)- ¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come... ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption... ¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance...

Implications: Because we have a covenant relationship of steadfast, forever love in Christ...

1. Like David, we can and should run to the covenant, in our desperate time of need
- David runs to the covenant relationship he has with Jonathan in his time of need, and he finds security, comfort, and peace.

* How much more when we run to our covenant relationship with God!

2. Like Jonathan, we should (and we must) surrender our kingdoms to the Anointed King
- Jonathan surrendered his kingdom to David, in recognition that he is the anointed king. He swore loyalty to David for the rest of his life, even at the cost of his own kingdom.

* How much more should we do the same to the Ultimate Anointed King, Jesus Christ, who laid down his life for us. And we must, because his kingdom alone will endure forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the sermon, we saw that David, in his time of great trouble, ran to his covenant relationship with Jonathan to find comfort, security, and ultimately peace. Where do you find yourself running to for comfort, security, and/or peace when you face difficulties in your life and why? How can understanding and believing the covenant relationship you have with God in Christ, help you to experience comfort, security, and peace in the midst of the storms of your life? Share about a time you experienced this. If you haven't, why do you think that is?

2. In the sermon, we saw that Jonathan essentially surrendered his own kingdom to David, in loyalty and recognition that David was the Lord's anointed king. In light of the fact that Jesus is God's Ultimate Anointed King, what are the "kingdoms" in your life that you need to surrender to Jesus? In other words, what areas of your heart are you refusing to give over to the Lord? Simply put, what are the commands of the Lord that you are persistently neglecting to obey? What steps can you take to walk in repentance in these areas, and how can your fellow brothers and sisters help you in this process?

3. The point of this story was to highlight the covenant relationship between David and Jonathan. Are there people in your life that you are in covenant relationships with? If so, who are they and describe what that means for those relationships? If not, why is that? Are there people in your life that God has called you to be in covenant relationships with? What would change about those relationships if you saw and treated them as covenant relationships?