

Context:

- Saul has been rejected as the king of Israel for his continual disobedience to the Lord's commands (CH 13), and David has been chosen by God to take his place as the new king.
- However, though David has already been anointed by Samuel as king (CH 16), he is not yet ruling as the king. Saul is still on the throne, acting as the king.
- The last few chapters (CHs 16-18) have been demonstrating the decline of King Saul, and the rise of David as the Lord's anointed.
- David's success is because God is with him (The Spirit of the Lord has rushed upon David permanently).

THE STORY:

1 Samuel 19:1-3 (ESV)- ¹ And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. ² And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. ³ And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you."

Saul's continual decline

- Saul's jealousy and anger toward David is deepening to the point where he is now openly trying to kill David.
- Last chapter he tried to have David killed covertly (by the Philistines), but now his jealousy has escalated to the point where he now orders his men to find and kill David.

* The destructive nature of jealousy

Saul's ignorance

- Evidently, in telling his son Jonathan to kill David, Saul was ignorant of Jonathan's love for David. Saul must not have been aware that Jonathan had made a covenant of loyalty with David, otherwise he would not have let Jonathan know of his desire to kill David. But because of Saul's ignorance, Jonathan becomes aware of his father's plan and warns David.

The plan (v3)

- Jonathan plans to talk to his father in order to advocate / intercede for David, with the hopes of talking Saul down.

1 Samuel 19:4-5 (ESV)- ⁴ And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. ⁵ For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the Lord worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?"

Jonathan's main argument

- The crux of Jonathan's argument has to do with David's innocence. David has done nothing wrong, and in fact has done everything right. Therefore, according to the law of God, it would be a sin for Saul to kill David and shed innocent blood.

1 Samuel 19:6-7 (ESV)- ⁶ And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death." ⁷ And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

David's (temporary) restoration

- Jonathan's intercession was successful: Saul swore an oath to not kill David, and Jonathan brought David back to Saul's presence to serve and minister as before.

- * This restoration is temporary (as we will soon see in the next episode) because Saul will later break his oath and attempt to kill David multiple times, causing David to flee from Saul for the remainder of this book.
- * But at least here in this episode, Jonathan's intercession on behalf of David, to his father Saul, resulted in David being rescued and restored.

THE SIGNIFICANCE

- The main emphasis of this story is to highlight for us that God is with David. That God's favor, protection, and blessing are all over David's life.
- God's blessing on David's life is clearly demonstrated in this story in the fact that Jonathan is the one interceding on David's behalf.
- * Jonathan is the king's son, and the crown price. There is no one closer, or more beloved, or more significant to the king's heart than Jonathan, his own son. And this is precisely who God provides for David as his intercessor. God provides David with Jonathan, the very best advocate possible.
- All this is to emphasize that David is the Lord's anointed, blessed and favored by God.

APPLICATION

- This story reminds us and points us to Our Great Advocate.
- Like David, for the Christian, God is with us "always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And God is "for us" (Romans 8:31), which means that his favor and blessing are all over our lives (Ephesians 1:3). And one of the ways that God's favor is clearly demonstrated on our lives is that we, like David, have a great advocate.

* In Christ, we have the greatest advocate in the One and Only Son of the King of the Universe.

Key differences

1. David is innocent, we are not.
2. David needs intercession because of the king's jealousy, anger, and hatred. We need intercession because the King of Heaven is holy, just, and righteous. God opposes sin and all of us have "sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"
3. Jonathan is a good intercessor, but Christ is a far better and greater intercessor. Jonathan was able to appease the wrath of the king, but only temporarily (as we will soon see). Christ is able to save to the uttermost. **- Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)- Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.**
4. Jonathan's intercession was based on David's innocence, while Christ's intercession is based on his own innocence.
 - This is why Jesus is able to save us to the uttermost. It is because He lived the life we should've lived, and He died the death we deserved for all of our sins. The penalty has been paid in full.
 - **Romans 8:34 (ESV)- Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The fact that Saul is now unreserved in his desire to kill David (as opposed to last chapter where he tried to do so covertly), demonstrates the destructive and dangerous nature of jealousy. How have you experienced the destructive power of jealousy in your life (or in someone around you?) What are some ways we can eradicate the sin of jealousy in our hearts?
2. The main emphasis of this story was to demonstrate clearly that God is with David, blessing him with the best possible intercessor (Jonathan, the king's son) to defend him. What are some ways that you have experienced the blessing of God being with you? When have you found it difficult to experience God being with you and why? What can help in those times to believe and experience His presence?
3. The application for this message pointed us to remember our Great Advocate, Christ, who intercedes for us to His Father, that we might never be condemned for our sins. In light of this great truth, what particular sins do you need to run boldly before the Lord right now, in repentance and faith in your Great Advocate? What would be a proper response of worship this week, in light of the fact that Christ is always interceding for you by His blood?
4. Understanding that through Christ as our Advocate, we can always approach God boldly and know that He hears us, who can you intercede for this week? And what will you intercede for them about?