

Date: 27.09.2020

Time: 11am

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Psalms (read): 148 and 124

Reading: 1 Samuel 18

Text: 1 Samuel 18:14

Outline:

- a) Introduction
 - 1. Wonderful friendship
 - 2. Sudden change
 - 3. Divine help

1 Samuel 18

- **Introduction**

We saw last week David brought into the centre of the kingdom when he defeated the giant, Goliath. As Saul becomes smaller, David becomes bigger.

1) Wonderful friendship

We see in David and Jonathan's friendship an exemplary friendship described. God uses Jonathan to deliver the people of Israel to victory in battle. After the battle, a great friendship begins – the king's son becomes best friends with David. We see in this God's provision for David. There is no jealousy, but love from Jonathan for David – this is a gift from God's goodness to the future king. Love is manifest in the friendship between Jonathan and David. Jonathan loved David as his own soul, like himself. Biblical friendship involves affection – your friend becomes precious to you; you want to be with them, to support them. A friend has a special place in your heart in a way that's different from a spouse, but also profound and real. There is a bond between Jonathan David as they share joy and tears together.

Solemnity: (v. 3) A covenant is made between Jonathan and David. Jonathan is committed to the good of his friend, David and binds himself to be David's friend, helper and supporter. This was a serious thing as in the Bible, to break a covenant meant death.

Generosity: (v. 4) There's selflessness and generosity in the friendship. Jonathan gives David his robe, his armour, his weapons, all that he possesses to David. We have previously seen that the people of Israel did not have many weapons and to have a sword was a picture of power – Jonathan gave even this to David. Jonathan was happy to give away what was his to his friend, David. He was willing to give David the kingdom. What a good man and a good friend Jonathan was – all that the Bible says about him is good.

Friends are God's gift to us. Not every friend is a good friend. A fellow Christian doesn't necessarily mean a friend, though some among our fellow Christians will be friends. It's not wrong to have special friends – not all were friends with Jesus and He had special friends, , even among the apostles. John was known to be the "one that Jesus loved". God provides us with people who love us and who we can love. We are friends of Jesus. He loves us as His own soul. He has bound Himself to us and committed Himself to us. He sacrificed His life for us so that we can be sons and daughters of the king.

2) Sudden change

From love to hatred: (v. 9) David had been a good soldier. He was respected and liked by Saul. His music soothed Saul. But David was put above Saul in a song and Saul went from trusting David to being angry and displeased with him and jealous of him.

Jealousy: (v. 8) Saul was so different from Jonathan in his treatment of David. Saul was jealous of David. He came to hate him, to look for fault in him, to look to kill him. In the eyes of Saul, David went from being a trusted soldier to a dangerous enemy.

Harmful spirit: (v. 10) Saul had a harmful spirit and twice tried to kill David. David stayed with Saul even after the first attempt to take his life. Saul was now a dangerous man. Not even the music played by David could now calm Saul down. God was behind this harmful spirit in Saul that made him temperamental and dangerous.

Fear: (vv. 12, 29) Saul feared David. He realised that God was with him. He saw the people in love with David and Saul was jealous, angry and fearful in response. His own family (Jonathan and Michal) trusted and loved David. God, the people, now his own family had abandoned him. When God is with us, there is nothing to fear, when God is against us, we fear everything. When God is against man, man is afraid. There could be an element of God's judgement with the coronavirus – we see the whole world living in fear at this time.

Deception: (v. 17) There would be a price to marry the daughter of a king – the price Saul demanded of David was for many enemies to be killed and Saul desired David to be killed in the process. But God protected David. Saul was anointed and appointed by God to be a blessing to the people, but he became a curse. Saul becomes an enemy of God. Jesus was fought against and rejected. David was fought against and rejected by Saul. David won and so did Jesus. God's anointed will be king. God always wins. It doesn't matter how hard someone fights against God, God's will shall be done. We're God's anointed ones – we're more than conquerors through Jesus.

3) Divine help

God-given victory: David wins in battles and prospers in all he does. He was more successful than all the others in battles.

God's presence: (vv. 14) What was it that made this young boy so strong? It wasn't David's strength, but God's strength and presence that gave David victory. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God represented God's presence with a person. The Lord was on his side, equipping David and giving him strength and victory.

God's people: God's people are protected by God through David, and love David. The result of the presence and favour of God was that God's people were delivered and spared. God raised David to spare Israel. God empowered David in all the battles he had to fight. Jesus had power from on high and God with Him – He defeated all His enemies. David brought victory, peace and prosperity to the people. Jesus is God's appointed way of forgiveness and salvation – He fights our battle and we love Him. Jesus saves us. We should respond in song with love for our Saviour and King. Our response to Him should be to praise, honour and love Him.