

**Date:** 18.10.2020

**Time:** 11am

**Preacher:** Gavino Fioretti

**Psalm (read):** Psalm 119:57-64

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 20

**Text:** 1 Samuel 20:17

**Outline: Jonathan's loyalty to David**

Introduction

Love-based loyalty

Covenant-sealed loyalty

Tested loyalty

Unexplainable loyalty

## Jonathan's loyalty to David

- **Introduction**

David is now experiencing oppression and opposition. Saul fears David because the Spirit of God has left him and is now with David. The blessing and favour of God is with David. Saul tries to kill David repeatedly. Behind this political struggle is a spiritual struggle. David is the one chosen by God to deliver his people from their enemies. He is a picture of a better King. Behind Saul is the devil, who would try to stop the coming of the anointed. God raises an unexpected helper for David; Jonathan. God uses Jonathan (the one who might have been king) to save David from the hands of Saul. Jonathan is loyal to David. Jonathan stripped himself of all he had and gave it to David. There was a covenant of mutual help, support and friendship between David and Jonathan.

### 1) Love-based loyalty

Jonathan's loyalty is based on love.

**As his own soul: (v. 17)** He was willing to lose the kingdom, the throne, his family for David. Love was the base of this loyalty to David. He took the initiative and did all he could to show his love and faithfulness.

**Emotional involvement:** There was a deep feeling of love for David. Jonathan was grieved that Saul didn't love David and wanted him dead. David and Jonathan wept with one another and they kissed one another. Kissing in their culture was different from ours, but it still shows the friendship and the emotional involvement, and the closeness and trust between them.

**In a practical way:** Jonathan was willing to do whatever David asked of him; "whatever you say I will do it". Jonathan's love was manifest in what he did. He was loyal to David and that was based on his love for David. David was a type of Christ. Jesus is a better David, One better than him. Jonathan is loyal to David because he loves him.

We are the friends of Jesus. As Jonathan was devoted to David, so we should be devoted to Christ. We should love Jesus as our own soul. We should be emotionally captured by Jesus. As Jonathan was willing to do all that David asked him to do, we should be willing to do all that Christ asks of us. David was a good man, but full of imperfections – Jonathan saw beauty in David and loved him. Jesus is the perfect One who never leaves us or forsakes us. He sticks closer than a brother. Is Jesus precious to us? Are we emotionally attached to Jesus? Are we moved when someone speaks well of Him or grieved when someone speaks badly of Him? Do we manifest that love with obedience? Jonathan did what God's anointed asked of him. Do we do what Jesus asks of us?

## 2) Covenant-sealed loyalty

It's not just that Jonathan loved David, or David Jonathan. They had come together in a covenant of friendship and renewed it again.

**His commitment:** Jonathan binds himself to David in a solemn way. He was more willing to die than break his promise to David. You see how special their friendship was. Jonathan was willing to give his life for David.

**His petitions:** vs 14. In a relationship, both sides have responsibility – this is seen in a marriage – both have responsibilities and both have expectations of each other. This is also true in a friendship – both have responsibilities and rights to expect from the other.

**His offspring:** Jonathan asked David to extend the same love he had for Jonathan to Jonathan's family. Jonathan knows that David will be free from his enemies, including Jonathan's father. At that time, when a king was killed, the whole family was killed too. Jonathan asked David to show him and his children the grace of God. This was a solemn, real relationship.

We are in a covenant relationship with Christ. We are His people, we are His bride. There is friendship with us and Christ. Like Jonathan, we have rights and responsibilities. We are bound to Christ the moment we are converted – we enter into a solemn oath, a solemn covenant where we bind ourselves to Him. We promise to be faithful to Him and to honour and serve Him. We enter that covenant, knowing that He will be good to us. We enter into a covenant with Him, trusting that He will show good to us and our children. Jesus is greater than David. David showed good to Jonathan's son, but David was limited in time. Jesus shows love and grace to our family forever. vs 17 shows Jonathan's expectations of David, renewing the covenant more than once. Christ loves us and loves our children as well.

## 3) Tested loyalty

The loyalty of Jonathan to David was tested by Saul. Saul is angry with Jonathan for his loyalty to David and puts pressure on him.

**Shame:** vs 30. Saul shows the kind of man he is by blaming Jonathan's mother for behaviour Saul didn't like in his son. Saul said that Jonathan was bringing shame on the family by his actions.

**Guilt:** Saul said that Jonathan was guilty of bringing shame on the whole family, choosing others over family.

**Greed:** Saul said that Jonathan would lose everything as long as he remained faithful to David. Jonathan was told that he would lose the approval of family, he would lose the kingdom and everything else for this shepherd. Jonathan was willing to give this all up for David as long as David was blessed. Jonathan doesn't fail the test of faithfulness or friendship. He remained faithful.

There are not many Jonathans in the world – he is a picture of what we should be like to Christ. Our loyalty to Christ is constantly tested; we're tested by our colleagues, friends and family. We can feel the pressure that we might lose everything for faith to Christ – lose our families and lose our jobs and freedoms. Hostility to Christ makes our lives harder and harder. Shall we stay loyal to Him even if we risk losing everything? Some in other countries have had to make that decision. Will we be loyal whatever the cost?

## 4) Unexplainable loyalty

**The cost involved:** Jonathan brought danger on himself and was willing to everything for David.

**The danger brought:** By defending David, his own father tried to kill him.

**The custom of the time:** Loyalty to family was so important at the time. Jonathan honoured his family, but David, God's anointed, came first. His father did not understand. Those closest to him questioned Jonathan's judgement and wisdom.

Our loyalty to Jesus is tested and the world doesn't understand it. Why be willing to go to church to worship in an enclosed space during this time when a virus threatens us? Because of our love for Christ. For the world, Jesus is another man, it's another religion. For us, He's the chosen One of God, the chief among ten thousand. We don't love Him or serve Him as we should, but we love Him and would rather die than live without Him. He's our only hope. He's our eternity. He's our friend. May Christ be precious to us. May He be as precious to us as David was to Jonathan.