

Beulah Baptist Church
Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor

Sunday School Lesson for October 4, 2020
Rev. Mark A. Seals, M.Div., Instructor/Teacher

Lesson: Love and Devotion to Others

Text: 1 Samuel 19:1-7

I. **Aim for Change / Learning Objectives...**

By the end of the lesson, we will...

Learning Objectives:

A. *EXPLORE* the story of Jonathan’s defense of David when David was opposed by Saul,

B. *LONG* for love and justice within the family and beyond,

C. *GROW* in love and devotion for justice for others.

Unifying Principle—A True Friend Intervenes. Although families are important, family dysfunction can skew our priorities and lead us to ruin. Is there a greater priority than family? Jonathan opposed the unjust intentions of his father, King Saul, in order to offer support and protection to David.

Key Verse—“*And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good.*” (1 Samuel 19:4, KJV)

People Places and Times

David. Born in Bethlehem, David as the youngest son of Jesse was a shepherd over his father’s flock. As a young man, David killed Goliath, a much feared giant Philistine warrior. David was a poet and musician, loyal to King Saul and close friends with Saul’s heir Jonathan. God said that David was a man after His own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). Although David had many accomplishments, he was imperfect; therefore, he stumbled and fell into sin. David recognized his sins and repented; he found forgiveness and restoration through God.

Philistines. Originally these people were seafarers until they were defeated by the Egyptians. Then they settled along with coastal areas at the southern part of Palestine, where they became the enemy of nearby Israel. The five main Philistine cities were Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron. The Philistines and the Israelites constantly fought over land. On several occasions, God allowed the Israelites to be overtaken by the Philistines as punishment for their disobedience toward Him (cf. Judges 13:1). Once a monarchy was established for Israel with Saul as king, Israel started to prevail over the Philistines, turning the tide of the war by killing the Philistines’ champion warrior, Goliath. The giant Goliath was so fierce and famous a warrior that Jonathan refers to him as “the Philistine” (v.5).

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II. Background

God stripped the kingdom of Israel from Saul because he did not follow God's direct orders and sought to justify his decision with half-hearted obedience (1 Samuel 15). But God is never without or in lack, so He raised and anointed David to succeed Saul as the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 16). As a shepherd, he fought to protect his sheep, and God developed his skill as a warrior. David went from fighting animal predators tending his father's flock, to the battlefield as a man of war, fighting most notably the Philistines starting with their nine-foot champion Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

The Lesson At-A-Glance...

1. Love Tested (1 Samuel 19:1-3)

2. Love Intercedes (vv. 4-7)

III. In Depth with More Light on the Text

1. Love Tested (1 Samuel 19:1-3)

David became famous throughout Israel for his skill as a warrior and was put in a high position in Saul's house. One of the greatest blessings from David's service to Saul was the friendship he developed with his son Jonathan. Because of his humility, the Spirit of the Lord was with David, and He compelled Jonathan and Saul to acknowledge God's power in him. However, King Saul also grew jealous and more fearful of David's fame. A tormenting spirit drove the king to make multiple attempts on David's life (1 Samuel 18:6-11, 21-25).

2. Love Intercedes (vv.4-7)

Jonathan met with his father Saul, and as he said he would. He spoke well of David, pleading for his safety. Jonathan went on to remind the king of all the good David had done for him, and the nation, by risking his life to defeat Goliath. Through David, the Lord had blessed Israel. He reminded his father how he too rejoiced as David triumphed. Jonathan could not understand why his father was so enraged to shed innocent blood for no valid reason. Jonathan, for a moment, was successful in reaching his father, and Saul listened to his advice. The king swore to his son before the Lord that he would not have David killed. However, Saul's promise would be short lived and broken.

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Liberating Lesson & Application for Activation—see Sunday School book...

Vocabulary Words You Should Know...

Fidelity: noun: faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support.

Scripture Memory Verse...

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.