



Honing in on the Heart!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #39:

‘Loyalty Matters!’

1st Samuel 20:26-42

Wednesday, June 4th, 2024

Last Week in 1st Samuel:

- Last Wednesday Pastor Steve did an awesome job leading us through 1st Samuel 20:1-25.
 - You can watch that sermon here:
<https://youtu.be/syErGngy6UY?si=CcoNCtInlclFf75P>
- *Pastor Steve did a great job of leading us through the interesting narrative of Jonathan warning David.*
 - They created a plan based on the possibility of Saul’s fits of rage that were coming.
 - Saul was still seeking to have David killed, and as we are going to see in just a moment, things are going to further intensify.

‘Loyalty Matters!’

1st Samuel 20:26-42

Sermon in a Sentence:

In this narrative we will see that Loyalty does in fact matter as we look at Lingering Thoughts, Lip Lashing and a Loyalty that will last between David and Johnathan.

Intro:

- Throughout the narrative in 1-2 Samuel, we are given the fact that Saul cares nothing about others, which includes loyalty.
 - *Even when it comes to his kids, he cares way more about his own selfish desires, than he does his own children.*
 - *As the author of Samuel has done before, there is great comparing and contrasting between King Saul and his son, Jonathan.*
 - Jonathan is loyal, as our text will give us insight into tonight and as we were able to briefly see last week.
- **Tonight in our text is a great example that loyalty matters in our relationship with others.**
 - Of course, our personal loyalty to God and His bride (the Church) is very important, but through the friendship of David and Johnathan and God’s oversight and guidance over their

relationship, I think it's clear that God does care about our loyalty to those in our lives.

- *I believe our text tonight even shows that our loyalty to others in our lives is a direct correlation with the loyalty that we have to God in our relationship with Him.*

- **Illustration**

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Question to Ask:

How is loyalty in a friend expressed in the continuation of this narrative?

Truth #1: *Lingering Thoughts.* (vv. 26-29)

- ‘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.”

- *Tonight we pick up where Pastor Steve left off last week.*

- David's place is empty, and I'm sure those gathered around the room that night were waiting for the time ticking bomb that is King Saul, to go off.

- *What I see happening to Saul in these verses is that his thoughts are lingering, and starting to run wild.*

- *The mind is truly a dangerous thing.*

- If we are not careful, we can even let thoughts linger in our minds for way too long, and it can even drive us crazy.

- *This is why the apostle Paul said in 2nd Corinthians 10:5...*

- ‘take every thought captive to obey Christ,’

- These two days that Saul's thoughts are lingering, compels me to see two things in this text:

- ***The Assumption.* (v. 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.”
- Saul didn't say anything, but thoughts are still lingering.
- *We are even told in the text what was running through Saul's mind at the time.*

- The new moon that we are told (based on the information given in verse 27) meant that this feast was a religious day of observance, which is why Saul wanted everyone on his ‘staff’ there.
 - *But he wants David there in order to kill him.*
- *Saul is a prime example that you can go through the motions of religious exercises and still have sin at the throne of your heart.*
 - *That’s why it is so important to not just come into this place, sit here, and leave and nothing change.*
 - Let’s pause for a minute. Ask yourself for how long you’ve been attending here, have you changed and grown in the last year? Six Month? Week?
 - *Saul is going through religious observance and he’s got murder on his mind. He wants David dead.*
- *Saul thinks that David is not here because he must’ve contracted ritual uncleanness, according to Leviticus chapters 11-15.*
 - Isn’t it interesting that people without loyalty always think it’s someone else’s

fault? And not the fact that he (Saul), is literally out of his mind?

- This is also Saul thinking positively of David, because the king assumed that David would follow the regulations found in the Torah.
- *Saul knew David was a devout follower of God (which was the main reason he didn’t like David), and according to Leviticus 7:20-21, he couldn’t participate in a religious meal if he was unclean.*
 - Things that could have made David unclean:
 - Forbidden insects, Leviticus 11:24.
 - Moist seeds that had come in contact with a dead animal, Leviticus 11:38
 - Another unclean person, Leviticus 15:11.
 - A human corpse, Numbers 19:14-16.
- *The Absence. (vv. 27-29)*
 - ‘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."

○ ***Saul has to reject that theory though, when on the second day, which was a non-holy day, David wasn't there.***

- On that day David could've eaten that meal, ceremonially unclean individuals were permitted to eat on the second day.
- *As we saw last week, David knew that Saul would be alarmed by this, and in verse 27, looks at this son Johnathan and asks where David is.*
- Notice that for the first time in this book, Saul doesn't call David by his name, but by ***'The Son of Jesse'***.
 - This is not the last time that this will happen.
 - Saul will no longer call David by his name.
- ***On day one, Saul assumed the best of David, on day two, his anger kindled from his lingering thoughts.***
 - To not mention a person by their name in the ancient world was to speak of

someone who was not yet a 'name' in their own right.

- Saul meant this was a huge slight and sign of disrespect towards David.
- ***And a contrast is visible in verses 28-29, when Johnathan uses David's name, and Saul still refuses to do so.***
 - Lingering thoughts when not dealt with, can lead to uncontrollable anger.
- ***In response to Saul, Jonathan adds a little bit to the cover story that David had earlier given him to present back in 1st Samuel 20:6.***
 - '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.'
 - The plan is that David went to a royal member of the family, Jonathan, and asked to go on leave because one of his brothers asked that could go.
- ***Saul's response is not going to be a pretty one.***
 - 'Let me go' comes from a Hebrew word that means escape.

Truth #2: Lip Lashing. (vv. 30-34)

- An unhinged person who does not have a personal relationship with God is capable of all sorts of angers and evils.

- *Even people who claim Christ and go through the religious rituals like Saul, can say some pretty nasty things.*
- *The story that Johnathan gave was too close to the truth, and Saul caught on to it.*
 - I feel certain that the whole time Johnathan was talking, that Saul's anger was boiling up.
 - Saul sniffs the lie and let's the words fly...
- There are **3** to point out here in this portion of our text.
- **Nasty Words. (vv. 30-31)**
 - '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."
 - Just as Saul didn't refer to David by his name anymore, neither would he do so with his own son.
 - *In verse 30, he calls him 'the son of a perverse and rebellious woman'.*
 - *I don't think Saul is insulting Johnathan's mother, instead I think he*

is insulting Johnathan for bringing shame to the family by being so close with someone like David.

- *In Saul's mind, David was the one who was destroying their family dynasty, but in reality it was saul's own actions and disobedience to God.*
- *Saul also discloses the fact that he was aware of Johnathan's close relationship with David.*
 - Evidently, Saul wasn't aware of it before...
- Saul is not just spewing these awful words to make Johnathan feel bad (though that's part of it), he also wants to try and bring Johnathan back to his side.
 - **Saul uses:**
 - *Shame.*
 - *Guilt.*
 - *Greed.*
- *First, he states that Johnathan's behavior was bringing shame to the family.*
- *Secondly he throws guilt on Johnathan that he was bringing to his own mother.*
- *Thirdly, he brings up greed in telling him that as long as the Son of Jesse is on the earth, you won't be king, he will.*

- *In verse 31 Saul gives an edict that Johnathan is to bring David to him so that David must die.*
- Johnathan resisted these urges, and would defend David. He was loyal.
 - *We may be tempted to wonder why was Johnathan not loyal to his own family?*
 - I believe he saw just how evil and unpredictable his father was, and didn't want to be associated with that any longer.
 - *Your kids will find out who you really are.*
- *Needed Truth. (v. 32)*
 - 'Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?"
 - This was very bold of Johnathan to come out and say. He is essentially defying his father, and defending David.
 - *Jonathan asks two questions:*
 - Why should he be put to death?
 - What has he done?
 - What Johnathan is asking here is actually a theological question:
 - *As king over God's people, according to 1st Kings 1:3, Saul was to be the chief enforcer of the Torah.*
 - *So Johnathan is asking this question to keep him accountable, because*

according to Exodus 23:7, Saul could not execute the innocent.

- But you will see later on in Samuel (specifically with the priests of Nob), that this is exactly what Saul will end up doing...
- *It's been clear though for quite awhile that Saul is not acting as God's representative, matters of justice went out the window and he was narrow focused on killing David.*
- *Near Death Experience. (vv. 33-34)*
 - '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 doesn't know how to deal with his feelings and emotions, which is why he constantly and consistently resorts to extreme violence.*
 - Saul through his spear at his own son, to answer Johnathan and essentially mean, 'Yep, you gotta go too'.
 - *While you and I may not throw literal spears at people, do we throw spears at people when it*

comes to our words or when we don't get what we want?

- Verse 34 gives evidence to one of the greatest stories of loyalty in the history of the world...
 - ***Jonathan spent an entire day grieving.***
- Not because of how he was verbally accosted by his father, but because he was grieved by what his Dad said and wanted to do to David.
 - ***Pure human loyalty cares for others ahead of themselves.***
- When was the last time you genuinely grieved over a hard time that one of your friends was going through?

Truth #3: *Loyalty Lasts.* (vv. 35-42)

- '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 fulfilled his commitment, and went to deliver the unhopd news to David.
 - ***The loyalty of Johnathan is seen strongly in these verses because he follows through on his word to David when his dad certainly made it difficult to do so.***
 - ***There are 2 important things to see here...***
- ***The Method.* (vv. 35-40)**
 - The method that they had previously agreed upon that we looked at last week, was executed.
 - The words of verse 38, 'Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!'. ***A clear indication for David of what transpired.***
 - The boy was oblivious to this, as was the plan, and sought to do what Johnathan had asked of him.
- ***The Meeting.* (vv. 41-42)**
 - Jumping away from the previously agreed upon script, Jonathan disarms his weapons, sends the

boy on, because he wants a moment with his best friend.

- *In the empty field, David and Johnathan met together face to face, Saul has now tried to kill them both, so they know that the amount of times they get to be around each other is certainly limited.*
 - David bows before Johnathan three times. This is the greatest number of times anyone in the Bible is depicted as performing this act in a single encounter.
- *This encounter seems to show that both of them knew that they would never again be able to enjoy an easy and informal camaraderie.*
 - This would end up being the next to last time that these two would be in each other's presence.

Conclusion:

- Loyalty clearly matters.
- Loyalty first and foremost to God.
- Loyalty to the inerrancy of Scripture.
- Loyalty to Christian friends.
- Loyalty to Family.
- Loyalty to the Bride of Christ.
- Loyalty to Man of God.
- Loyalty to the Servants of the Church.
- *Are you a loyal person?*
- *Are you a Johnathan? Or a Saul?*