I Samuel 20

Review…

- **Chapter 15-17 – A new king for Israel…**
  - Saul disobeyed God – and would not repent – so God regretted ever making Saul king…
  - Instead God choose a shepherd boy named David – to be anointed as Israel's next King!
  - After about 10 years – the Philistines went to war with Israel…
  - They had a new secret weapon – the nine-foot tall giant named Goliath…
  - David took his shepherds staff – and five smooth stones – and ran out to battle…
  - With one stone he dropped the mighty giant – and cut of his head…
- **Chapter 18-19 – David and Saul…**
  - As the army of Israel returned to Jerusalem – the people sang their praises…
    - Saul has killed his thousands – David has killed his ten thousands!
    - Saul was jealous of David – and threw a spear at him to try and kill him
  - Saul had promised to give David his oldest daughter for killing Goliath…
    - But Saul broke his vow and gave his daughter to another man…
    - Another daughter Michal fell in love with David – and Saul agreed to the marriage…
    - He asked David to kill 100 Philistines– hoping David would be killed in battle!
  - Jonathan confronted his father about wanting David dead – Saul 'repented'…
    - But a short while later tried to kill David again by throwing a spear at him…
    - David fled to Samuel in Ramah – Saul went after him but the Spirit saved him!

David and Jonathan… (*3 things*)

- **1st – The promise between David and Jonathan… vs. 1-23** Read: I Samuel 20:1-23
  - 1st – Looking for an answer… vs. 1-3
    - There had been an immediate bond when David met Jonathan – **I Samuel 18**…
      - Jonathan trusted in God – led Israel to victory over the Philistines – **I Samuel 14**
      - David trusted in God – led Israel to victory over the Philistines – killing Goliath…
      - They had they same spirit – the same passion and confidence in the Lord…
      - Jonathan had made a vow to be the life long friend of David…
    - So when David fled Ramah he went looking for Jonathan…
      - David asked Jonathan – 'What is my sin - why is Saul so determined to kill me'…
        - But Jonathan protested – his father did not want David dead…

- Saul told everything to Jonathan – even the little details of his life…
- He had talked to Saul about his hatred for David – and his father had 'repented'…

- Saul had not repented – He just did not want to be convicted by his son…
  - If Saul did not talk about his plans – Jonathan could not point out his sin…
  - People do not like it when we point out their sin - they quickly get offended...
  - They will do their best to change the subject – talk about something else...
  - Not because of what we are saying – because they are convinced of their sin!
  - That is why many people do not like going to church - reading their Bible...
  - They are convicted of their sin - so they stay away from the conviction!

- David took and oath – Saul knew he and Jonathan were friends…
  - So he was intentionally keeping his desire to kill David from Jonathan…
  - But David knew he was only a step away from death – it was knocking at his door!
  - It is easy to forget in life – all of us are always just a step away from death…
  - Which is why it is so important we know where we are going when we die…
  - No one thinking clearly wants to go to hell - a place of eternal suffering…
  - Most people just do not think about it - they put off the decision till another day...
  - The plan is one day - after they have had 'some fun' - enjoyed the 'good things'…
  - Then they will make the time to 'get right' with God - address the issue of salvation
  - The problem is God does not guarantee anyone tomorrow!
  - There are many people who wait till 12:00 to receive Jesus – only to die at 11:59...
  - No one plans to have a heart attack/stoke - or get hit by a bus...
  - Today is the day to believe - to receive the free gift of God – **II Corinthians 6:2**

- 2nd - Jonathan agreed to help David – 'tell me what I can do!'… vs. 4-8

  - The next day was the new moon festival – everyone would be at the palace for a feast…
    - The Hebrews calendar in based on the lunar cycle – every new moon was a feast…
    - **Numbers 28:11** – "At the beginnings of your months you shall present a burnt offering to the LORD…"
    - David would intentionally miss this feast – hiding out in a field…
    - If Saul asked where David was – Jonathan was to tell him he asked for permission…
    - David 'went home' to Bethlehem to attend the feast there with his family instead…

  - This was a perfectly reasonable excuse – and Saul should have been OK with it…
    - If Saul did not question Jonathan – then all was well – David was safe…
    - But if he was angry – then David was right – and Saul wanted him dead…
    - It meant Saul wanted David at the feast – so he could kill him then and there!

  - David asked Jonathan – his friend - to do this for him…
    - If not – if David had sinned against the king - then let Jonathan kill him himself …
    - Jonathan vowed he would never harm David – or betray David to his father…
    - When we face challenges and hardships in life – we are not alone…
    - In Christ - we are not called to be an Island – we are called to be part of a family…
    - So that we are able to stand for the Lord – as we stand together in Christ…

- 3rd - The plan to keep David alive… vs. 9-23

- Jonathan would do as David asked – and then let him know how Saul reacted…
  - If Saul was angry with David – 'may the Lord kill me' if he did not warn David…
  - Jonathan blessed David – may the Lord be with you like He used to be with Saul…
  - A sad commentary that Jonathan realized God was no longer with his dad…
  - A man who had once been full of the Spirit of God – was not full of envy and anger!
  - We are not Christians because of what God did in our lives 10 years ago…
  - The question we need to ask is what is God doing in our lives right now…
  - It is easy to try and hold onto the past - 'depending on the good old days'...
  - But our relationship with God is not about what God did yesterday...
  - We need to make sure the Lord is working in our lives today!

- Jonathan knew David would be the next King of Israel…
  - So he asked David to treat him with the same kindness as long as he lived…
    - And if Jonathan died – he also asked David to show kindness to his children…
    - Typically when there is a change of dynasty in a nation…
    - The new ruler will seek out and kill all of the children of the old ruler…
    - That way there is no one to challenge the new rulers right to the throne!
  - This shows the incredible heart of this humble man of great faith…
    - All Jonathan had to do was 'turn David in' – and he would be the next King…
    - But he recognized God had anointed David – and wanted God's best!
    - One of the hardest things to do – is to accept the position God has given to us…
    - God might be calling us to be a servant – and we want to be a king…
    - But better to be a faithful servant / than to be an ungodly king!

- Jonathan had a plan to safely let David know if he was safe of not…
  - He would come out to the field with his servant – and shoot off three arrows…
    - If he told the servant – 'there are on the side' – Saul was not angry with David…
    - If he told the servant – 'they are farther out' – then David needed to run!
  - The Lord was their witness – each should keep their promise…
    - Jonathan would save David from the wrath of his father king Saul…
    - And David would spare Jonathan and his family when he became king…
    - When we help others – we will find they are there to help us!
    - The 'Golden Rule' - do to other people - what you want them to do to you...
    - The same way we treat others - is how they will end up treating us!

- **2ND – THE REACTION OF KING SAUL… VS. 24-34** READ: I SAMUEL 20:24-34
  - 1st - On the day of the feast – king Saul sat at his usual table… vs. 24-29

- Seated with him were Jonathan and Abner – the captain of the army…
  - The only person missing was David – his seat at the king's table was empty…
  - Saul did not question the absence of David the first day…
  - He assumed David had become ceremonially unclean – so could not attend…

        - But when he was also not there the second day – Saul became suspicious…
    - Saul asked Jonathan – who told his father the story he and David had composed…
        - Jonathan lied to his father – in order to protect David…
        - Which leaves the question – is there ever a good reason not to tell the truth…
        - Such as if it keeps someone from having hurt feelings – 'how do I look' – ugly!
        - The end does not justify the means – the journey is as important as the destination
        - There is never a good reason to lie – it is depending on our efforts…
        - Better to be honest – tell the truth – and trust in/depend on the Lord!
- 2nd - Saul flew into a RAGE – 'YOU SON OF A WHORE!'… vs. 30-32
    - Saul was ashamed of his son – because he wanted David to be king instead of himself…
    - Saul knew unless David died – Jonathan would never be the next king of Israel!
    - Jonathan for the 2nd time confronted his father – 'what has David done!'
    - We might think it is kinder not to confront someone who is sinning...
    - But the truth is leaving someone in their sin - is condemning them to hell...
    - Not that we are not saddened when we see the hurt our words might cause...
    - But we rejoice to see them repent - restoring their relationship to Jesus!
- 3rd - At that Saul took his spear and tried to kill Jonathan with it… vs. 33-34
    - Finally Jonathan realized that Saul really did intend to kill David…
    - Jonathan left the table in fierce anger – and refused to eat the rest of the day…
    - He was ashamed of his father – and he was afraid for his friend…
    - We cannot make people turn back to Jesus - all we can do is warn them...
    - **Hebrews 3:13 -** "Exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."
    - When we know someone who is caught up in sin - we need to warn them!
    - Sin is devastating - if we refuse to repent of our sin - it will harden our hearts...
    - If we continually choose sin - hardening our heart towards God...

- **3RD – RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE… VS.35-42** READ: I SAMUEL 20:35-42
    - 1st - The next day Jonathan went out to warn David…
        - He shot his three arrows – and told his servant – 'they are father out'…
            - The code that warned David - indeed Saul indeed to kill him…
            - The servant came back – unaware of the secret code - and went back to the city…

- David came out of hiding – and bowed before Jonathan three times…
  - Jonathan told David to 'go in peace' – they had made their vows to each other…
  - The Lord would watch over them – and their children – forever!
  - But David would keep his vow – he would be kind to the son of Jonathan…
  - But it was almost 40 years before David was pressed to keep his vow…
  - **II Samuel 21:7** – "David spared Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, who was Saul's grandson, because of the oath David and Jonathan had sworn before the LORD."
  - It is easy to say we will keep our word – when we promise something today…
  - But we are to keep our word – even 40 years after we have made a promise!
  - God does not treat your words lightly - He expects you to fulfill your promises...
  - **Numbers 30:2** - "A man who makes a vow to the LORD or makes a pledge under oath must never break it. He must do exactly what he said he would do."
  - If you do not follow through with your promise - then it is sin...
  - In fact if you are not sure if you can keep your promise - say nothing at all...
  - **Ecclesiastes 5:5** - "It is better to say nothing than to promise something that you do not follow through on."

- 2nd - David had lost everything!
  - David had lost his position as commander – the king wanted him dead…
  - David could not go back to Samuel the prophet – Saul would come after him…
  - David had lost his wife Michal – he could not go back to Bethlehem to his family…
  - And now finally David had lost his best friend – he had one left – but the Lord!
  - God does not always keep the same people in our lives…
  - We have a tendency to learn to depend on others rather than on God…
  - For that reason the Lord will 'shift' the people he brings into our lives…
  - Because the one constant in our life – should be the Jesus Christ!