

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 02/16/14

1 Samuel 19-20 — “The Cost of Covenant,” Ron Giese

In a sentence: Jonathan’s covenant with David was a sign of his loyalty to David as God’s king and an example to us for our costly loyalty to Christ

SUNDAY’S OUTLINE

In modern novels, we know characters’ thoughts.

In biblical stories, we learn about characters:

Primarily: extensions: actions and words.

Secondarily: associations: friends, places, clothing, objects.

1. The context of the covenant (1 Samuel 19:9-10)

Illustrated by an object: spear

2. The care behind the covenant

Response #1: love (1 Sam 18:1, 3)

Response #2: kisses (1 Sam 20:41)

3. The covenant itself (1 Sam 20:12-16)

Dynamic #1: commitment to the other

Dynamic #2: cost to self

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. Fill in the blank: Saul lives in a constant state of (anxiety). How did the author write Saul’s story so as to make this clear (19:9-10)? Saul always had a spear with him, just like what other group in the story (17:45-47)? In what way did this specific image provide a contrast with David? This might sound cheesy, but what is your “spear”? Or, put another way, what are the tangible signs in your life of fear, anxiety, or a general mistrust in the Lord and a trust in yourself?
2. Language and gestures of affection between Jonathan and David give us insight into their relationship. What’s the context for their kiss, for example? What kind of a relationship does this represent (contract, friendship, romantic, covenant, etc.)? What would you say to the person who suggests that Jonathan’s relationship with David is a proof of the Bible’s endorsement of homosexuality? How would you define a covenant?
3. In 1 Samuel 20:12-16 we listen in on the only conversation between Jonathan and David the author allowed us in on, and here we find out some details about the covenant between them. What does, “The Lord be with you,” indicate about Jonathan’s view of David? What is at stake for Jonathan in his covenant loyalty to David (20:14-15)? What can this relationship teach us about the meaning and cost of being a disciple of Jesus Christ (think of specific verses)?
4. What are the most important things in your life and what is the order of these priorities right now? If you had to give up all of them save one, which would you keep?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

- **The meaning of love in this text:** “At the same time that Saul grows in his jealousy toward David, Saul’s son Jonathan grows in his love for David. This “love” probably means several things. It means a political commitment or allegiance. This is like the main idea, an element of affection or emotion, and a recognition that David is the one God Himself has chosen.”
- **Other occasions of kissing:** Genesis 33:4; 45:15. “Out of the 35 times in which the Hebrew verb for “kiss” occurs in the Old Testament, only 4 are romantic or sexual.”
- **Verses on discipleship:** Luke 14:26; Matthew 10:37