



## **David and Jonathan: Friends for Life (1 Sam 18 - 20)**

*Study Notes Handout: Week Eleven*

### Introduction:

In the story that 1 Samuel tells, Jonathan is a model of a disciple of the future King. Jesus said, 'If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you' (John 15:8), and we can well imagine David saying to Jonathan, 'If Saul hates you, know that he has hated me before you.'... Jonathan (was called to) love David more than he loved his own father. It was a matter of choosing between the future king and his own flesh and blood. (John Woodhouse)

*If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. (John 15:20)*

### Sermon Outline:

- Jonathan's friendship with David resembles qualities of being a true follower of Christ:

1. Lasting Covenant: A Relationship of Enduring Love (18:3; 20:8, 16 - 17, 42; 23:16 - 18)

2. Loyal Kingdom: A Relationship of Humble Service (18:4; 19:1 - 7; 20:30 - 42; 23:16 - 18)

### Questions for Reflection / Discussion:

- i. Jonathan surely felt conflicted several times. He was both an honourable son and a loyal friend. When these two roles came into tension, how did Jonathan resolve the matter?
- ii. Did Jonathan have to choose a side? How did he make his decision? What decisions were made for him already? Do you think he could have worked out his dilemma in a better way? Do you think Jonathan obeyed the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12; Eph. 6:1 - 3)? Discuss.
- iii. Have you ever felt conflicted in relationships, having to choose where your loyalty would rest? How did you work it out? What does Jonathan's experience teach you?
- iv. What can we learn from Jonathan that applies to our relationship with Christ? Discuss.



## Personal Study Notes

### Key Verses:

*And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.  
1 Samuel 18:3*

*Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.  
1 Samuel 20:42*

### The Story of David and Jonathan's Friendship: A Lesson on Loyalty

#### *Jonathan's Loyalty Demanded:*

- 1) A Willingness to Help in Times of Need (20:1-18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) An Unbreakable Friendship, a Spirit of Brotherly Love (20:9-23)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) That He Conquer Jealousy and Envy (20:24-34)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) That He Keep His Oath, His Commitment, His Promises (20:35-42)

#### Questions or Insights for Discussion:

- 1)
- 2)

