



Courageous and Sacrificial Friendship

August 4, 2019

1 Samuel 18:1-5 & 19:1-7

“Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt” (1 Samuel 18:4).

Under Israel’s first king, only King Saul and his son Jonathan had armor and swords. King Saul reigned in fear, because he had rebelled against the LORD and the LORD had departed from him. Through Samuel, the LORD told Saul his dynasty would end. Then, Samuel anointed David as the future king.

When the Philistines oppressed the Israelites, Jonathan rallied the army to defeat them. Jonathan led the way because he acted with faith in the LORD. Before the battle, Jonathan stood with only his armor bearer and said, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will act for us; for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few” (1 Samuel 14:6). The LORD was with Jonathan, and the garrison fell. Jonathan’s success gave his father the courage to fight the Philistines, and Israel won a great victory. Before David became king he fought the giant Goliath, telling him, “This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand....that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD’s and he will give you into our hand.” (1 Samuel 17:46-47). After David killed Goliath, the Philistines fled in fear. Both Jonathan and David were men after God’s own heart. As kindred spirits, their faithfulness to and love for the LORD drew them into a courageous and sacrificial friendship; therefore, Jonathan gave David what he would need to lead all Israel and someday reign as king.

1. Why do you think King Saul wanted David in his army? See 1 Samuel 17.

2. Why do you think Jonathan and David were kindred spirits?

3. Do you think Jonathan came to understand that David should become king instead of him?

4. Why do you think Jonathan gave David his battle dress?

5. Why do you think King Saul wanted to kill David?