**Showing the Kindness of the Lord**

*1 Samuel 20; 2 Samuel 9*

**Introduction**

1. We are stewards of all that God has given us, and we are to be faithful (**cf. 1 Corinthians 4:2)**.
2. We are recipients of God’s grace, mercy, and kindness – **Ephesians 2:4-9**
3. The reception of immeasurable blessings as God’s grace, mercy, and kindness puts us under obligation to show such to others in our relationships.
4. The friendship of Jonathan and David exemplifies this.
5. Jonathan and David – Souls Knit Together
6. David Flees from Saul
   1. Spirit of the Lord departs from Saul, and he receives a distressing spirit from the Lord. David is brought in as Saul’s armor-bearer and plays music to soothe Saul – **1 Samuel 16:14-23**
   2. David slays Goliath, the champion of the Philistines – **1 Samuel 17**
   3. Saul makes David commander of his army, and grows jealous of him upon his continued success, and begins to eye him – **1 Samuel 18:5-9**
   4. Saul attempts to pin David to the wall with a spear, and he escapes Saul’s presence twice – **1 Samuel 18:10-11**
   5. Saul tries to have David killed by offering his daughter, Michal, and requiring 100 foreskins of the Philistines – **1 Samuel 18:17-30**
   6. Saul attempts to kill David again, surrounding his house with messengers, but Michal helps David escape to Naioth in Ramah – **1 Samuel 19:1-17**
   7. David flees from Naioth in Ramah and goes to speak to Jonathan – **1 Samuel 20:1**
7. David Requests Kindness from Jonathan – **1 Samuel 20:5-8** – by telling him of Saul’s true intentions, thus, forewarning him to ensure escape.
   1. ***“kindly” “lovingkindness” (LSB)*** – *ḥeseḏ* – “(1) joint obligation between relatives, friends, host and guest, master and servant; closeness, solidarity, loyalty…(1a)…faithfulness; to show loyalty” (HALOT)
      1. **LXX** *– eleos* – “kindness or concern expressed for someone in need, mercy, compassion, pity, clemency” (BDAG)
      2. “it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it.” (VINE)
      3. **Love, compassion, mercy, and kindness that is faithful and loyal to its object.**
   2. ***“for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with you” (v. 8b)*** – looks to the beginning and basis of their friendship, as well as its strength.
8. The Friendship of Jonathan and David
   1. **The relationship of these two stands as a blueprint for the most meaningful, substantive, and rich relationships we can have.**
   2. **1 Samuel 17:55-18:4** – witnessing the actions of David against Goliath, and his interaction with Saul, Jonathan’s soul was knit to David’s.
      1. ***“when he had finished speaking to Saul…” (v. 1)*** – implies Jonathan is there to hear.
      2. **17:55-56** – interests in the specific identity of one with such courage, and valor to slay Goliath.
      3. **17:57-58** – David’s answer is modest, not with motive of self-aggrandizement, but the simple, somewhat unimpressive truth.
   3. Concerning Jonathan:
      1. **Why would witnessing this affect him so?**
         1. He is the right hand and lieutenant of his father, Saul.
         2. He would have been of this number – **1 Samuel 17:11**
            1. Seeing the Philistine champion – what an accomplishment for anyone who defeated him.
            2. Knowing the honor due such a man – **1 Samuel 17:25** – cause for boasting.
         3. He would have heard David’s words, and known David’s confidence and strength – **1 Samuel 17:37, 47** – not David, but God.
      2. **Why would his soul be “knit” to David’s?**
         1. Though he trembled in this instance, Jonathan had similar faith to David’s.
         2. **1 Samuel 14:6** – faith in God expressed in going against the Philistines.
         3. **1 Samuel 14:46** – defense of Jonathan by the people when he unknowingly transgressed his father’s rash oath.
            1. The people recognized the implicit verdict of God by the occasion of victory.
            2. Johnathan was innocent, righteous, and God had been with him.
   4. **(vv. 1, 3)** – his soul was bound/knit to David’s, and he loved him as himself ultimately ***because of their mutual faith in, and love of God.***
      1. **(v. 3)** – this ***“like precious faith” (2 Peter 1:1)*** led to a covenant between the two – an agreement of devoted, loyal, kind love.
      2. ***“Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above”*** – **John 17:20-23**
      3. Such a tie that knits our hearts brings us into a covenant with each other before God – **1 Peter 1:22** (***“unto unfeigned love,” ASV; “for a sincere love,” NASB***); **1 John 4:11; 5:1-2**
         1. **NOTE: This is the type of relationship which produces solid, sound churches – not unity for the sake of unity, but unbreakable unity of the Spirit.**
   5. **(v. 4)** – a sign of that devotion, deference, humble active love.
9. Jonathan and David – Showing the Kindness of the Lord
10. Jonathan to David (by David’s request)
    1. **1 Samuel 20:8-11** – Jonathan to tell David whether Saul grows angry concerning David’s absence, and intends to harm him.
    2. **Cf. 1 Samuel 20:18-23** – his plan to inform David.
       1. David hides in field, and Jonathan takes servant to field for target practice.
       2. Shoots 3 arrows – servant to retrieve them.
       3. Shouts – they are on this side – David is to know he is safe.
       4. Shouts – they are beyond – David is to know he is in danger, and to flee.
    3. **1 Samuel 20:30-33** – Saul’s wrath against David known, and Jonathan coming to know his true intentions of which he informed David as promised.
       1. **This gives a vivid depiction of the concept of *ḥeseḏ -* steadfast, faithful, loyal, covenant love** –
          1. **Until now Jonathan did not think his father truly meant harm to David** – **1 Samuel 20:2-3** – but NOW JONATHAN IS FACED WITH THE CHOICE OF GOING AGAINST HIS FATHER, OR GOING AGAINST DAVID.
          2. **(v. 31)** – JONATHAN WAS NEXT IN LINE TO THE THRONE, BUT HE STILL SHOWED KINDNESS TO DAVID – and such would threaten his place.
          3. Accordingly, his action was another expression of faith, for he knew God was with David, and it was God’s will that David take the throne – **1 Samuel 23:16-18** (wilderness of Ziph, fleeing from Saul; Saul did not accept this though he knew it)
11. David to Jonathan (by Jonathan’s request)
    1. **1 Samuel 20:8** – a covenant is two sided.
    2. Upon agreement to warn David of danger from Saul – **1 Samuel 20:14-17** – a covenant for David to show kindness to him while living, and to his house when he is gone.
       1. With the understanding that David would be in the position of power as king.
12. The Kindness of the Lord
    1. Jonathan’s request was not just for David to show kindness, but ***“show me the kindness of the Lord” (1 Samuel 20:14).***
    2. I.e. this quality is demonstrated by the Lord – we learn it from Him – **Exodus 34:6-7** (name declared, ***“goodness…mercy”*** – *hesed*); **Ezra 3:11** (after laying foundation of temple, ***“mercy”*** – *hesed*; **Psalm 136**)
    3. Jonathan’s request manifests faith that God is with David, and that David will be shown the kindness of God – **1 Samuel 20:14**
       1. His request is that David be a channel of God’s faithful love to him and his house – **cf. 1 Samuel 23:17**
       2. **I.e. WHEN GOD SHOWS YOU KINDNESS THROUGH HIS FAITHFUL LOVE, DIRECT THAT ALSO TO ME WITH BLESSINGS OF KINDNESS AND FAITHFUL LOVE.**
    4. **We receive the blessings of God’s lovingkindness/faithful love so that we can give it to each other:**
       1. **Ephesians 4:15-16, 25** – speaking truth in love.
       2. **Ephesians 4:32** – forgiving each other.
       3. **Ephesians 5:1-2** – loving each other as Christ loved us.
          1. **NOTE: Not only beneficial to us (*“for us”*) but in fulfillment of God’s will (*“offering and sacrifice to God”*).**
       4. **1 John 3:16-17** – using what God has blessed us with to bless each other.
13. **Jonathan showed the Lord’s kindness to David in warning him and helping him evade Saul. How did David show the Lord’s kindness to Jonathan? *The answer manifests the great devotion, loyalty, and strength of such lovingkindness.***
14. David and Mephibosheth – Showing the Kindness of the Lord
15. NOTE: Jonathan is absent from military conflict during this period since Saul’s energy is focused on David. However, when the Philistine conflict resumed, Jonathan was a part of Saul’s last campaign against them which ended in his death. Jonathan had only one surviving son from wars – Mephibosheth.
    1. David’s covenant with Jonathan – **1 Samuel 20:15** – even to his house, forever.
16. After Saul’s death, David is made king in Judah, and then establishes kingship in Israel after Ishbosheth’s death. David is given great promises, and victories through which God establishes his kingdom.
17. David Seeks to Keep His Covenant with Jonathan (**2 Samuel 9**)
    1. David asks whether one from Saul’s house remains to fulfill his covenant with Jonathan – **(vv. 1-5)**
       1. He is not asking from paranoia to annihilate any of his rivals – **(v. 1)**
       2. The answer is not jarring to him, but pleasant – **(vv. 4-5**)
    2. Mephibosheth humbly presents himself before David – **(vv. 6-8**)
       1. ***“Do not fear” (v. 7)*** – one can imagine the anxiety of Mephibosheth – has David sent for me to finish off Saul’s family?
       2. He is humble, not defiant, and bitter – **(v. 8)**
    3. David shows the Lord’s kindness in a most excellent way – **(vv. 7, 9-10, 13)**
       1. Restored land, and a place of honor and provision at the kings table continually.
       2. Commission of Ziba and his sons to work the land for Mephibosheth – **(vv. 9-10)**
          1. **(v. 3)** – Mephibosheth is lame, and therefore cannot work.
          2. **Cf. 2 Samuel 4:4** – the injury was inseparably linked to the tragic loss of his father, who he’d never fully know.
          3. **David’s acted as a channel of God’s compassion, mercy, and faithful love to alleviate the physical burden of his injury, and the constant emotional sting which came with it.**
18. **David did not know Mephibosheth, but it didn’t matter. The kindness of the Lord which David had received, and which he promised to show his dear friend Jonathan surpassed time and circumstance – it was loyal, and faithful love.**
    1. This is the love which surpasses all others – it is steady, and powerful, going above and beyond what any would think.
    2. This is the love which keeps on giving, and blessing others.
    3. **Cf. Micah 6:8** – this is what the Lord requires of us.

**Conclusion – Applications**

1. The true, substantive relationships which matter, and which we should pursue and cultivate are those which are bound by mutual faith – God’s people are strengthened through individuals drawing nearer to God, thus, drawing nearer to each other.
2. God shows us how to love, have compassion, show mercy, and care for others as He has done so for us perfectly – it is our responsibility to learn from this, and apply it to our relationships with each other.
3. The love God shows doesn’t fail – time, circumstance, etc. – it is faithful, loyal, consistent love. We are not to be fickle, biased, or hesitant in our love, but faithful, loyal, and steadfast.
4. Invitation – **Romans 5:6-8** – God has shown you faithful love, will you respond? – **Galatians 2:20**