**Lesson 22**

**1 Samuel 20:1-42 (NASB)**
1  Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity? And what is my sin before your father, that he is seeking my life?"
2  He said to him, "Far from it, you shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. So why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!"
3  Yet David vowed again, saying, "Your father knows well that I have found favor in your sight, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, or he will be grieved.' But truly as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is hardly a step between me and death." *(David knows how close he is to death from Saul)*4  Then Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you say, I will do for you." *(How many of us have friends that would do this?)*5  So David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I ought to sit down to eat with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field until the third evening.
6  "If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked *leave* of me to run to Bethlehem his city, because it is the yearly sacrifice there for the whole family.'
7  "If he says, 'It is good,' your servant *will be* safe; but if he is very angry, know that he has decided on evil.
8  "Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. But if there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself; for why then should you bring me to your father?"
9  Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! For if I should indeed learn that evil has been decided by my father to come upon you, then would I not tell you about it?"
10  Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?"
11  Jonathan said to David, "Come, and let us go out into the field." So both of them went out to the field.
12  Then Jonathan said to David, "The LORD, the God of Israel, *be witness!* When I have sounded out my father about this time tomorrow, *or* the third day, behold, if there is good *feeling* toward David, shall I not then send to you and make it known to you?
13  "If it please my father *to do* you harm, may the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not make it known to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And may the LORD be with you as He has been with my father.
14  "If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die? (Jonathon setting up for David’s rule, protect my family)
15  "You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."
16  So Jonathan made a *covenant* with the house of David, *saying,* "May the LORD require *it* at the hands of David's enemies."
17  Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life.
18  Then Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed because your seat will be empty.
19  "When you have stayed for three days, you shall go down quickly and come to the place where you hid yourself on that eventful day, and you shall remain by the stone Ezel.
20  "I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target.
21  "And behold, I will send the lad, *saying,* 'Go, find the arrows.' If I specifically say to the lad, 'Behold, the arrows are on this side of you, get them,' then come; for there is safety for you and no harm, as the LORD lives.
22  "But if I say to the youth, 'Behold, the arrows are beyond you,' go, for the LORD has sent you away.
23  "As for the agreement of which you and I have spoken, behold, the LORD is between you and me forever."

This show how much Jonathon is trusted by his father at this point

Solemn vow

God loves certain numbers, 3 is one of them. Why??

[20:1-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A1-23). Having become persuaded of the irremedial (impossible to cure or put right) nature of Saul's hostility toward him, **David** sought to learn its source and to determine if there might be a means of reconciliation. The test would be Saul's response to David's absence from the **New Moon** feast ([v. 5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A5)), held on the first day of every month ([Num. 28:11-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+28%3A11-15)). If Saul became upset about David's absence, then David would know that there was no hope of patching up their differences. If, however, the king was amenable, then all was not lost ([1 Sam. 20:6-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A6-8)). **Jonathan** would approach his **father** on the matter and communicate the results to **David** by signaling with **arrows** ([vv. 18-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A18-23)).

24  So David hid in the field; and when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food.
25  The king sat on his seat as usual, the seat by the wall; then Jonathan rose up and Abner sat down by Saul's side, but David's place was empty.
26  Nevertheless Saul did not speak anything that day, for he thought, "It is an accident, he is not clean, surely *he is* not clean." (ceremonial clean)
27  It came about the next day, the second *day* of the new moon, that David's place was empty; so Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to the meal, either yesterday or today?"
28  Jonathan then answered Saul, "David earnestly asked leave of me *to go* to Bethlehem,
29  for he said, 'Please let me go, since our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to attend. And now, if I have found favor in your sight, please let me get away that I may see my brothers.' For this reason he has not come to the king's table."
30  Then Saul's anger burned against Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you are choosing the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? (Probably referring to shaming his mother for having given birth to him)
31  "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Therefore now, send and bring him to me, for he must surely die."
32  But Jonathan answered Saul his father and said to him, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?"
33  Then Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him down; so Jonathan knew that his father had decided to put David to death. *(Did this also come from the evil spirit inside of him?)*
34  Then Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did not eat food on the second day of the new moon, for he was grieved over David because his father had dishonored him.
35  Now it came about in the morning that Jonathan went out into the field for the appointment with David, and a little lad *was* with him.
36  He said to his lad, "Run, find now the arrows which I am about to shoot." As the lad was running, he shot an arrow past him.
37  When the lad reached the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the lad and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?"
38  And Jonathan called after the lad, "Hurry, be quick, do not stay!" And Jonathan's lad picked up the arrow and came to his master.
39  But the lad was not aware of anything; only Jonathan and David knew about the matter.
40  Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad and said to him, "Go, bring *them* to the city."
41  When the lad was gone, David rose from the south side and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed three times. *(why?)*And they kissed each other and wept together, but David *wept* the more.
42  Jonathan said to David, "Go in safety, inasmuch as we have sworn to each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.'" Then he rose and departed, while Jonathan went into the city.

Another solemn vow, meant to protect Jonathons family in the future. After David because king.

[20:24-42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A24-42). At first **Saul... thought** David was absent because he was **ceremonially unclean** ([v. 26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A26)). But then Saul's response was what David feared. After David's absence on **the second day,** Saul was filled with rage toward **David** and also toward **Jonathan** ([vv. 30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A30), [33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A33)). **As long as** David lived, Saul said, there was no hope that his own dynasty would continue ([v. 31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A31)).

With heavy heart **Jonathan** signaled to **David** the next **morning** by his words to a **boy** and with **arrows** ([vv. 34-40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A34-40)). **Jonathan** and **David** met **and wept together** ([v. 41](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A41)). It was obvious that friendship with Saul was impossible. But **Jonathan** said that his own bond of loyalty with **David** would never be broken ([v. 42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A42)). Jonathan was giving up a kingdom for the love of a friend.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Open it**

1. In what way do you agree or disagree with the conventional wisdom that "when the going gets tough, you find out who your real friends are"?
 **Those who are your real friends find ways to help and check up on you**

2. What is particularly tragic about a love story "across enemy lines"?
 **Most of the time it has a bad ending**

**Explore it**

3. What was the difference between David’s and Jonathan’s perceptions of Saul’s behavior? ([20:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A1-2))
 **David thought he had sinned against Saul but Jonathan thought not**

4. What was David’s theory about why Saul might not have included Jonathan in his plans as he usually did? ([20:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A3))
 **So as not to make Jonathan grieve over what was to happen to David**

5. What promise did Jonathan make to David before God? ([20:12-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A12-13))
 **That he would tell David what Saul was planning to do**

6. What promise did Jonathan ask David to make to him? ([20:14-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A14-15))
 **1 Samuel 20:14-15 But show me unfailing kindness like the LORD’s kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, 15 and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family —not even when the LORD has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.”**

7. What emotion prevailed in the relationship between David and Jonathan? ([20:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A17))
 **Love of the other like love of themselves**

8. How did Saul react when David’s place was empty on the first day of the feast? ([20:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A26))
 **Something had happened to him to make him ceremonially unclean**

9. What was Saul’s immediate emotional reaction when he heard the agreed-upon answer as to David’s whereabouts? ([20:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A30))
 **1 Samuel 20:30 “You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don’t I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?**

10. What accusation did Saul make against his son Jonathan? ([20:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A30))
 **That he was siding with David, son of Jesse**

11. What did Saul do when Jonathan continued to question the justice of the death sentence against David? ([20:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A33))
 **He hurled a spear at him**

12. What emotions did Jonathan feel after arguing with his father? ([20:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A34))
 **he was grieved at his father’s shameful treatment of David.**

13. Which signal did Jonathan execute for David the next day? ([20:35-38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A35-38))
 **The one that indicated Saul was going to kill David**

14. What did Jonathan remind David of before they parted company? ([20:42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A42))
 **Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord**

**Get it**

15. What moral or legal justification did Saul have for trying to kill David?
 **None**

16. What does it say about Jonathan that he chose to remain loyal to David, even to the point of working against his own father’s commands?
 **True Friendship**

17. What did Jonathan show that he knew by faith about the future when he secured David’s promise to be kind to his descendants?
 **He knew David would become king over Israel**

18. What is good or bad about forming loyalties that can surpass loyalty to family?
 **It can cause great distress to you like with Jonathan and David**

**Apply it**

19. How can you resolve to strengthen your commitment to God so that it could withstand even the agendas of your closest family or friends?
 **Study, study, study**

20. For what strong friendship bond can you thank God and your friend this week?
 **My Wife, nothing will ever shake our bond apart**