

October 4, 2020

“Love That Intercedes”
Lesson 1 of Unit

I Samuel 19:1-7

Intro

Matthew 5:9 says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” What are the risks of being a peacemaker? If someone is trying to make peace, that means there is a lack of peace present. Words that are opposite of peace can be conflict, strife, trouble, unrest, fighting, battle, and many others. All these words indicate a troubled situation. It’s very possible that the one trying to bring about peace in this conflict will be disliked, maybe even actively worked against, by one or both of the parties in conflict. It’s not an easy choice to put yourself in the middle of a conflict and try to bring about a peaceful solution.

Today’s study looks at the actions of Jonathan, Saul’s son. Saul was Israel’s first king, but when he failed to carry out God’s commands as given, God rejected him as king and chose David to replace him, meaning Saul’s son Jonathan will not become king after him. After killing Goliath, David became a member of Saul’s house in two ways: David and Jonathan become close friends, and David marries Saul’s daughter Michal. But despite these connections, Saul thinks about and tries repeatedly to kill David out of anger and jealousy. First Saul tries to kill David himself, then he tries to have him killed by putting him in a dangerous situation (I Sam. 18:17-25). As a third attempt is proposed by Saul, Jonathan, as David’s best friend, steps forward as the peacemaker.

Read I Samuel 19:1-7

1. What is Saul’s proposed third method for killing David in vs. 1? Who is being referred by the words “servants” or “attendants”? Why would Saul include Jonathan in this attempt?
2. Read Ex. 20:12, Prov. 23:22, Eph. 6:1-3, and I Sam. 18:3-4. How would you explain Jonathan’s choice of action in vs. 1-2 after reading these verses?
3. What is revealed about Saul when Jonathan says Saul is “looking for” a chance to kill David in vs. 2?
4. What specific warnings and directives does Jonathan give David in vs. 2? How immediate is the threat?

5. Where is David going to be hiding, according to vs. 3? If David hides there, what does that say about the degree to which he trusts Jonathan?

6. What actions will Jonathan take to resolve the situation, according to vs. 3?

7. What is Jonathan's tactic in vs. 4-5 to bring David back into Saul's good graces? What specific points does he raise? Why/how would this method be helpful or effective?

8. What is the purpose of a rhetorical question? What is Jonathan hoping to accomplish by asking the rhetorical question he does at the end of vs. 5?

9. What two meanings can be attached to the phrase "listened to" in vs. 6? What is the result for Saul in "listening to" Jonathan's words in this verse?

10. How does Jonathan fulfill his stated actions (vs. 3) in vs. 7? What is the end result of Jonathan's efforts for David? What is suggested by the phrase "as before" at the end of the verse?

Application: In some conflicts, an intermediary is necessary. Some conflicts occur between people who don't have the same power status, like employer-employee or parent-child. It can be hard for the person with power to admit wrong, and the one of lower power can feel unsafe in confronting the more powerful offender. Restoration can be nearly impossible without an intermediary. But someone who truly cares for both parties is needed to be that intermediary. That could be any one of us.

Prayer: Father God, show us opportunities to reconcile strife. Give us the courage to act and the wisdom to speak the right things to help bring reconciliation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

