

Introduction: The two greatest commandments and Jesus' new commandment (John 13:34-35) are all about LOVE. *** Last week we considered the apostle John's deeper explanation of what it means to love 'one another' as Jesus loves us (1 John 4:7-20). It is beyond loving our neighbor as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18) and requires brothers and sisters in Christ in His Church to love each other sacrificially as Jesus loved us and gave His life for us (Ephesians 5:1-2). The only commandment greater than this is to love the Covenant God, Yahweh, totally and always (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). *** On Christmas Eve we considered how Jesus' LOVE for all humanity fulfilled prophecy from the beginning to the end in ways that surprised and startled Jews who expected Him to trample down all who hated them: then and there, so they could be over all the heathen nations. But, God sent Jesus into the world so it might be saved through Him, each and every person (John 3:17; 2 Peter 3:9). *** Putting all this together, all who follow Jesus are to love Him with everything. And they must have gratitude for His great LOVE to them, demonstrated by working together IN Him so that people they know may receive His love through their repentance into humble childlike obedience to all He commanded (Matthew 28:17-20) *** Again today, as we go through the story of David's life, we see Jonathan as a type of Jesus Christ. Jonathan almost dies because of his love for David. He puts his own life at risk to rescue David from death. *** Our proverb teaches that love overcomes adversity. Our bonus passage from Ruth (1:15-18), illustrates from the history of Israel that people of different cultures can be bound together forever in love, even in hardship!

Friendships survive forced separation

I. Saul's patience with David runs out on the second day of the new moon, when Jonathan gives him the planned answer, Saul's anger is inflamed and he hurls his spear at Jonathan, who responds in righteous anger.

(1 Samuel 20:24-34)

- A. Saul is patient with David the first day of the new moon, but on the second day he asks his son about David, and Jonathan gives the planned answer. *(Verses 24-29)*
 1. Then David hid himself in the field, and the new moon came and the king sat down to eat bread; he sat on his seat, as other times, by the wall; then Jonathan arose and Abner sat at Saul's side, and David's place was empty. *(Verses 24-25)*
David hides: The new moon, when the night sky was darkest, began the month. God's people were to offer a burnt offering of total consecration on that day (Numbers 28:11). It was still celebrated in the first century (Colossians 2:16).
 Per the plan, David hides.
Empty place: Therefore, his place at king Saul's table is empty.
 2. Saul spoke nothing for he said (to himself), he (is) not clean, for (he is) unclean. *(Verse 26)*
Saul quiet: On the first day of the new month, Saul's respect for David's heart to God keeps him quiet.
 3. Then the second day of the new moon David's place was empty and Saul said to Jonathan:
 Why has the son of Jesse, yesterday and again today not (been) to bread (with us)? *(Verse 27)*
Not use name: Saul is so angry at David he cannot use his name, meaning 'beloved' – not by Saul!
 4. Jonathan answered: David strongly asked me to go to Bethlehem, saying: Thou must send me, please! Because (there is a) family sacrifice and my brother commanded me; now, if I have found favor in thy eyes, let me go away to see my brothers; for this, he has not come to the king's table. *(Verses 28-29)*
Scripted answer: This is the answer Jonathan planned to give his father from the start.
 How will Saul react? What will he do? The form of his question suggests he will be hostile to David.
- B. Saul is inflamed with anger at Jonathan's response and declares David must die and hurls a spear at his son, who responds with righteous anger. *(Verses 30-34)*
 1. Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said: Son of woman being perverted and rebellious: Do I not know that thou have chosen the son of Jesse to thy shame and the shame of thy mother's nakedness? *(Verse 30)*
Saul's angry response: Saul's anger burns like an out of control fire.
 As he shames his son Jonathan he also makes disparaging remarks about Jonathan's mother, his own wife!
 2. For all the days the son of Jesse lives on the earth, not will be established thee or thy kingdom; therefore, thou must send and take him for he (is of) death; then Jonathan answered: Why will he be put to death? What did he do? *(Verses 31-32)*
Saul's real concern: Saul wants his kingship to become a dynasty, starting with Jonathan.
Jonathan's response: Jonathan has accepted God's will for him, and is only thinking about sparing the life of his loyal and innocent friend.
 3. Then Saul threw his spear at him to slay him; then Jonathan knew that it was concluded by his father to put David to death. *(Verse 33)*
Saul's spear: Saul's attempt to kill his son is even worse than when he recently did the same to his most powerful and loyal soldier (1 Samuel 18:11).
 4. Then Jonathan rose from the table in kindled anger, and did not eat bread on the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had shamed him. *(Verse 34)*
Jonathan's anger: Jonathan mirrors his father's anger; but, his anger is righteous anger over the way his father is mistreating his covenant friend David. Some anger is righteous, most is not.

Application: We must pray to know when righteous anger is appropriate so we may follow Jonathan with Saul, and Jesus when He cleansed the Temple courts (Matthew 21:12-13).

II. Jonathan tells David to leave to save his life, they kiss and weep together pledging to be forever joined in Yahweh; love always overcomes adversity and binds in the Lord people of different cultures. *(1 Samuel 20:35-42;*

Proverbs 17:17; bonus – Ruth 1:15-18)

- A. Jonathan goes to David and shoots the arrow beyond the lad, telling him not to stay; David bows before Jonathan, they kiss and weep together, pledging to be joined in Yahweh forever. (*1 Samuel 20:35-42*)
1. When it was morning, Jonathan went out (to) the field to the appointment with David, a young lad with him; and, he said to his lad: Thou must run and thou must find the arrows which I am shooting; the lad ran and he shot an arrow beyond him. (*Verses 35-36*)
Signals David to go: This is the pre-arranged action to signal to David Saul meant him great harm.
 2. When the lad came to the place of the arrow which Jonathan shot, then Jonathan said to the lad:
 Is not the arrow beyond thee? Then Jonathan called after the lad: Speedily, thou must make haste; thou will not stay; then Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrow and came to his master. (*Verses 37-38*)
Jonathan's cryptic addition: When he said 'Thou will not stay' to his lad, he is telling David more. They will be separated!
 3. And the lad did not know anything, only Jonathan and David knew the matter; then Jonathan gave the weapons to his lad; then he said to him: Thou must go, and bring them to the city. (*Verses 39-40*)
Just the two of them: After his young servant leaves, Jonathan will be alone with David to talk.
 4. The lad had gone, (then) David rose from beside the south, then he fell on his face toward the ground, then he bowed three times; then they kissed as companions, and wept as companions, until David was made great. (*Verse 41*)
Sorrow for separation: These two great friends know Jonathan was born to be king, but David was chosen by Yahweh. Their friendship love is un-exceeded by any other friends in Scripture. Jonathan risked much for David, and David showed Jonathan nothing will extinguish their love.

Friendships survive forced separation

5. Jonathan said to David: Thou must go in peace which we have sworn, both of us in the Name of Yahweh to say: Yahweh will be between me and thee and between my descendants and thine: forever! (*Verse 42*)
They are forever bound in love: Their bond of covenant love for each other will last between them and their descendants forever because it was made before Yahweh, and He will make it last because they are both faithful to follow Him.
Even when separated: And, miraculously because it is a covenant love made in Yahweh, it will even survive the separation imposed on it by the increasingly rebellious Saul.

Friendships survive forced separation

Application: We must realize God wants all people to have a friend who will love them sacrificially. Since God said: it is not good to live alone (Genesis 2:18), we must ask God to guide us to a person we can love sacrificially as Jonathan and David loved each other.

- B. Love always overcomes adversity, even people of different cultures can be forever bound together in love. (*Proverbs 17:17*; bonus – *Ruth 1:15-18*)

1. In all times, a friend is loving / and a brother has been born for adversity. (*Proverbs 17:17*)
Love in adversity: A feature of Hebrew poetry is that the two nouns and two actions can interchanged, so a friend has been born for adversity and a brother always loves

Friends always love, even in adversity.

Bonus: *Ruth 1:15-18*

2. And she [Naomi] said: Behold! Thy sister-in-law returned to her people and her 'gods'; thou must return after thy sister-in-law. (*Verse 15*)
Human logic: Naomi is still bitter over the deaths of all the men in her family. In her mind there is no logical reason why Ruth should return to Bethlehem (house of bread) with her!
3. Then Ruth said: Not thou will request me to leave thee, to return from following thee; because, where thou will go, I will go, and where thou will lodge, I will lodge; thy people (are) my people, and thy God (is) my God; where thou will die, I will die and there I will be buried; thus will Yahweh do to me and thus He will add, because (only) death will separate me and thee. (*Verses 16-17*)
Forever joined: This is one of the most powerful statements of a non-Israelite pledging to be forever joined in covenant love with the Covenant God Yahweh's people! Ruth says Naomi must not send her away from following her and make her return to her people!
4. And when she [Naomi] saw that she [Ruth] was strongly determined to go with her, then she [Naomi] ceased to speak with her. (*Verse 18*)
Accept love: Implicitly, with body language, Naomi accepts Ruth's pledge of undying love.

Application: As members of the Church, we must live what Ruth and Naomi illustrate about people of different cultures (even Jews and non-Jews) becoming ONE family IN Christ, living together, even in hardship, in loving faithful obedience to: Father-Son-Spirit.

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Conclusion: Saul's patience with David runs out on the second day of the new moon, when Jonathan gives him the planned answer. Saul's anger is then inflamed and he hurls his spear at Jonathan, who responds in righteous anger. Jonathan tells David to leave to save his life, they kiss and weep together pledging to be forever joined in Yahweh. Love always overcomes adversity and binds people of different cultures together in the Lord.

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