

Title: Love and Hatred for God's Anointed

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1-9

Series: God, the True King!

1. Introduction:

- a. When we last studied 1 Samuel, we saw God delivering His people by the hand of His chosen redeemer.
- b. The narrative of David and Goliath taught us much about salvation. We learned that:
 - i. An unbeatable enemy assails the natural man.
 - ii. The natural man is hopeless and impotent to save himself from this enemy.
 - iii. The natural man desperately needs a champion to represent him in battle (substitution).
 - iv. God's chosen redeemer appears weak in the physical sense, and yet He is spiritually strong! This strength is derived from the fact that He stands in the name of the Lord.
 - v. God's chosen redeemer has won! His victory is the people's vicarious victory.
- c. Today, we study the aftermath of David and Goliath.
 - i. We will see that God's chosen redeemer provokes both profound love and deep-seated hatred.
 1. Some, having their eyes opened by God the Holy Spirit, see God's redeemer for who He is and are drawn to him.
 - a. In our narrative, love comes from not only Jonathan but also his sister

Michal, all of Israel and Judah, and even Saul's servants.

2. Others, having seen the wonderful work of deliverance, are filled with resentment and envy. They do not want to accept God's redeemer as their king, preferring to hold on to the illusion of self-governance.

a. In our narrative, Saul's hatred toward David grows greater and greater.

d. Therefore, love and hatred toward David is the central theme of this chapter.

2. Verses 1-4: Love for God's Anointed: As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. (2) And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. (3) Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. (4) And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

a. Verse 1: **As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.**

- i. The fall of Goliath in battle changed everything. Everyone now took notice of David.
- ii. Here, for the first time, David meets Jonathan, who becomes **attached (knitted)** and **loves** David.

1. The expression **knitted (attached to)** refers to “inseparable devotion.” From this point on, Jonathan would forever belong to David.”

a. Seeing David as God’s chosen redeemer changed Johnathan. Remember, before Johnathan's eyes, David had substituted his own life for all of Israel. David had fought the unbeatable giant and triumphed over him. It was David who had brought salvation. David was, in a physical sense, Jonathan’s savior. Jonathan, at this point, recognized that David was God’s anointed.

b. From this point, Jonathan would live the rest of his life in service to the redeemer of Israel.

c. Those who have been enlightened by grace see the beauty of Jesus Christ. We see him for whom he is. Our souls become **knit** to Him and belong to Christ.

i. **Ephesians 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

2. The bible reports that **Jonathan loved David as his own soul**. The epitome of Christian love is here summarized for us. To truly love as a Christian requires a

complete divestment of self and the highest estimation of another.

a. From this point forward, Jonathan and David will have a love relationship that exemplifies what Christ taught us.

i. **John 13:34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

b. In the case of Christ, we are to love Him beyond ourselves. We, like Johnathan, must love Christ with the entirety of our souls.

i. **1 Peter 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

b. **Saul took David from that day forward** to fulfill the prophecy and warning that Samuel had initially given the people when they asked for a King.

i. **1 Samuel 8:11** He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.

c. Verse 3: **Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as his own soul.**

i. Covenant: In scripture, a covenant was an unbreakable contract between at least two parties,

and it spelled out the responsibilities of each party. It included the blessings of covenant keeping and the cursings for covenant breaking.

1. Example: We stand before God under the new covenant instituted by the life, work, and death of Jesus Christ. God is the keeper of both sides of the Covenant of Salvation.
- ii. Because Johnathan saw David as God's anointed, he immediately made a covenant with David. This covenant was the logical consequence of Johnathan loving David. Usually, this type of covenant was inaugurated by severing an animal in pieces and by both parties passing between the pieces as if to say, "If I am unfaithful to my word in this covenant, may I end up in pieces like this animal."
 1. The covenant between David and Johnathan would be honored by both men, even in the direst of circumstances.
 - a. Jonathan would honor the covenant even when he knew his father was seeking to kill David actively.
 - b. David would honor the covenant even after the death of Johnathan by showing mercy to his son, Mephibosheth.
 2. This verse teaches us about the beauty and sacredness of being in a covenant relationship with God's chosen redeemer.
 - a. Speaking about the promise in Jeremiah 31:31-34, we read in **Hebrews 8:8-10** For he finds fault

with them when he says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (9) not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. (10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- b. **Hebrews 12:24** and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
 - i. Just as Johnathan made a covenant with the chosen redeemer who had saved him, we, too are compelled to be in covenant with Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Beloved, look at the redeemer. Look at what He has accomplished—Marvel of the profundity of His love. Being in covenant with such

an incredible savior gives life meaning and purpose.

d. Verse 4: **And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.**

i. In making the covenant with David, Jonathan does the unimaginable. Jonathan is the crowned prince, presumably the next king of Israel. But what happens next is astonishing. Jonathan begins to take his royal robes off and place them upon David. The royal robes should go to Him, who is ultimately worthy. The prince makes himself less and makes David more.

1. We do not know whether Johnathan intentionally was abdicating his princely position to David. But that is exactly what happens. Jonathan elevates God's chosen redeemer above himself and his position. He makes much of David and little of himself. Beloved, this is the only way to salvation. A man must humble himself before Christ the anointed king, or he cannot be saved.

a. **John 3:30** He must increase, but I must decrease.”

b. **Philippians 3:8-9** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count

them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

- ii. **Commentary:** This deed on Johnathan's part was an act of faith. Only faith makes us willing to be the lesser. Faith causes us to surrender the rights we pretend to have over to Christ, who is truly the King of God's people.
- e. Beloved, love for Christ means dying to self and giving all for His cause. Like Johnathan, it is admitting that only God's chosen redeemer is worthy of all. It is taking off all that we are proud of; perceived power, loved positions, and earthly status. It is coming to God's chosen redeemer without anything and casting ourselves on Him. This is what Johnathan did and what you and I must do if we want to be saved. May Christ ascend to the highest position in our lives.
 - i. **Matthew 10:37-38** Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (38) And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

3. Verses 5-9: Hatred for God's Anointed: And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul

set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. (6) As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. (7) And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." (8) And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" (9) And Saul eyed David from that day on.

a. Verse 5: **And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.**

i. Notice with what ease God the Father elevates His chosen redeemer. He becomes head of the army, to the delight of the people of God.

b. But we read in verses 6-9 how Saul's heart became distressed with envy.

i. Saul is unlike Johnathan. In an act of faith, Jonathan surrendered his rights to God's chosen redeemer, emptying himself. Saul will have none of it.

ii. Here we wonder how David draws such different reactions: faithful love from Johnathan but murderous envy from Saul.

1. Saul wants to keep all that he has. He cannot stand the thought of anyone else

being elevated above himself. He cannot stand the idea of subjugating himself to the one God has preferred. Saul will be king and not God's anointed.

iii. **When the women sing of David's ten thousand as compared to Saul's thousands, Saul reasons that all that is left for David to take is the kingdom.**

1. At this moment, Saul knew that it was David whom God had chosen to be the new king of Israel. Samuel had warned Saul that his unwillingness to obey God had caused God to reject him and choose another.

a. **1 Samuel 15:28** And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, *who is better than you*."

i. Here is the one whom Saul has feared.

1. Can there be any doubt that David is better than Saul?

a. Saul trusted in himself; the highest aim of his life was self-elevation.

b. David trusted in the name of the Lord; the highest aim of his life was the glory of God!

c. What is the aim of your life today?

- ii. Please see the reality presented here. Saul has two options:
 1. He can accept the anointed of God and surrender or
 2. He can withstand God and fight against God's anointed.
 3. These are the same two choices that every man faces. These are the two choices that are set before you today.
- c. Saul chooses to reject God's anointed savior. Jesus Christ, David's greatest descendant, was and is similarly rejected by the majority.
 - i. **John 7:43-44** So there was a division among the people over him. (44) Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.
 - ii. **John 9:16** Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.
 - iii. **Matthew 10:34-36** "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. (35) For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (36) And a person's

enemies will be those of his own household.

d. However, the rejection of Christ has dire and eternal consequences.

i. **Hebrews 10:26-27** For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

4. Benediction:

a. **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**Public Reading of Scripture:
1 Peter 1:3-9**