

Title: Peace in Covenant
Scripture: 1 Samuel 20:35-42
Series: God, the True King!

1. Introduction:

- a. Our last three sermons have explored the meaning of covenant.
 - i. In sermon number 1, we learned there is divine certainty in our covenant with God.
 1. Amid our most difficult times, we can run to God and receive his everlasting mercy, God's hessed.
 - ii. In sermon number 2, we learned there is divine faithfulness in our covenant with God.
 1. God will always be faithful to His people.
 - iii. In sermon number 3, we learned there is a divine cost in our covenant with God.
 1. In other words, discipleship requires complete surrender to the cause of Christ.
 - iv. Today, in our last sermon in chapter 20, we will learn that there is peace in our Covenant with God.
 1. Amid our steepest trials and afflictions, we can have the constancy of God's goodwill and love.

2. Verse 35-40: The path of Suffering: In the morning Jonathan went out into the field to the appointment with David, and with him a little boy. (36) And he said to his

boy, “Run and find the arrows that I shoot.” As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. (37) And when the boy came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the boy and said, “Is not the arrow beyond you?” (38) And Jonathan called after the boy, “Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!” So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master. (39) But the boy knew nothing. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter. (40) And Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy and said to him, “Go and carry them to the city.”

a. Jonathan and David devised a clever plan to hide from any potential spies sent from Jonathan’s father.

Jonathan would go to the field and shoot arrows as if shooting at a target. This would be a normal and unsuspecting activity.

i. The little boy who went with Jonathan that morning to chase the arrows had no idea how much he was helping.

ii. Jonathan shot the first arrow, and he shot it as far as he could. This was a bad omen for David. Then Jonathan called out to the boy, “**Is not the arrow beyond you?... Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!**”

1. With these words, David’s heart sank. The message was clear. David needed to flee as far and as fast away as he could. Saul was indeed intent on killing him. Saul would misuse his position's power and limitless resources to track down David.

2. David’s life, as he knew it, was over! He would no longer enjoy the comfort of

family, home, or safety. He would no longer be able to go to the temple with the saints to worship or bring his offerings to God. David would no longer be able to see his wife, Michal.

- a. The stark reality of his situation begins to settle upon his mind. From this point on, David is a fugitive, a hunted criminal. The bounty hunters will be nipping at his heels. He could expect betrayal from those that wanted to ingratiate themselves to Saul. David would have to be looking over his shoulder constantly.
 - b. What lay before David was the difficult road of tremendous suffering with great trials, temptations, and fear.
- b. Do you feel the heaviness of our passage? It is not hard to ask you to put yourselves in David's shoes. You have known great suffering in your lifetime. It is probable that some of you are going through the crucible of affliction now.
- i. Let us consider two truths found in the passage:
 1. First, let us see how the man of God's choosing is always rejected.
 - a. David, as a prophetic archetype, points to the coming savior, the true man of God's choosing. Christ would know the pain of total rejection.
 - i. **John 1:10-11** He was in the world, and the world was made

through him, yet the world did not know him. (11) He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

ii. Second, we must understand that the way of suffering is a familiar road that all Christians must travel. However, on the road of suffering, our God meets us with incredible grace and does His best work in our lives. We learn dependence and surrender during difficult times. There is no room for pride and self-reliance on this road. Let us look at the reality of suffering:

1. Suffering, for Christ's sake, is difficult.

a. **2 Corinthians 12:9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2. Suffering, for Christ's sake, should be expected.

a. **1 Peter 4:12** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

3. Suffering, for Christ's sake, is a purifying agent.

a. **1 Peter 1:6-7** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by

various trials, (7) so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

4. Suffering, for Christ's sake, is a divine honor.

a. **Acts 5:41** Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

b. **Philippians 1:29** For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

5. Suffering, for Christ's sake, should be a source of joy.

a. **1 Peter 4:13** But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

b. **Romans 5:3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

3. Verse 41: Gratitude, affection, and grief: And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times.

And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most.

a. **Gratitude**: **And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times.**

i. David's gratitude for Jonathan indicates a heart that understands the Lord's provision. Amid all the evil that was currently happening, David had reason to be thankful for a friend like Jonathan. God had provided, in Jonathan, a protector, counselor, and encourager.

1. Beloved, it is good to remember, with gratitude, God's past and current means of grace in our times of affliction lest we become tempted to think that God has abandoned us.

b. **Mutual affection**: **And they kissed one another.**

i. In our current culture, this might seem odd and even uncomfortable. However, we see an open display of brotherly affection among two godly men. This needed affection was of mutual encouragement. God's love was made evident to David through the actions of Jonathan.

1. Beloved, it is good to love the brethren and remind them through our actions that the Lord loves them. Such actions draw our brothers and sisters closer to the Lord, especially in times of need.

c. **Mutual Grief**: **(they) wept with one another.**

i. What pains my brother should also pain me. This is biblical truth because none of us lives

independently of each other. We are all one body with Christ as the head.

1. **1 Corinthians 12:26** If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.
2. **Romans 12:15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

d. Personal Grief: **David (was) weeping the most.**

- i. Although David was grateful for Jonathan, we can see his current situation is of great sorrow and affliction. As we have said already, David was embarking on a journey of incredibly difficult suffering.
- ii. Beloved, God has provided his rich mercies and Christian family for times of need; however, there is still a certain amount of pain that each of us must endure to the fullest. In the words of Jesus Christ, we must each carry our crosses. **David wept the most** because he was the most impacted. Jonathan did everything he could, but David, like Christ, had to go into the wilderness to be tempted by fiery trials.

1. In moments of such suffering, we must not crumble but follow closely behind the suffering and rejected king, Jesus Christ.

- a. **John 15:20** Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

4. Verse 42: Peace found in Covenant: Then Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.’” And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

a. **Go in peace**: These words of Jonathan seem odd. How can David go in peace while the king of the land looked to destroy him.

i. We must be careful here. Jonathan is not stating that all is peaceful with David or that all will be peaceful from now on. There is no room in Jonathan for such a false theology as to believe that trouble and affliction are never to touch the believer. Jonathan is saying that David can go into the wilderness of suffering in peace because there is peace between the two of them.

1. Of all of David’s enemies, Jonathan is not and will never be one of them. There is divine peace.

b. But from where does this peace come? It comes from the fact that both men had **sworn** (an oath) **in the name of the LORD**. In their relationship, David will never have to fear Jonathan.

i. There is one constant for David amid anguish; one heavenly port in the raging sea. David has peace with Jonathan.

ii. Beloved, if we are in Christ, this is where you and I find ourselves. This is the biblical peace that is promised to each believer.

1. **Commentary**: Biblical peace is not a general tranquility but rather a rightness at the center in the midst of turmoil.

a. **Romans 5:1** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

b. But in the same chapter, we read, **Romans 5:3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

c. Beloved, our relationship with Christ brings peace during turmoil.

i. Jesus told his disciples in **John 16:33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

ii. Loved ones, we do not have peace because all is peaceful, but we have peace because one greater than Jonathan has made a covenant with us.

c. **The LORD shall be between me and you and your offspring, forever:**

i. We have spoken about this truth before but must be reminded of what we ought to know. Pay

close attention to the language that Jonathan uses here. The covenant that bound these two men was everlasting. It extended past their individual lives and unto **their children, forever**. This is a blessed thought in regards to our covenant with God.

1. If we are in Christ, we are in a perpetual and eternal covenant with God. We are forever the children of God. No trial, affliction, temptation, persecution, or suffering can **ever separate us from God's love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!**
2. If you have never put your trust in Christ and His gospel, understand this; God offers us peace with Himself through Christ Jesus. During your most terrible circumstances, you can have the only continual haven of rest. It is possible to be at peace with God!
 - a. Listen to the words of comfort spoken by Jesus in **Matthew 11:28-30** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
3. However, if you reject the chosen king, you will never have one ounce of the peace that truly matters. Your life will be a series of ups and sometimes terrible downs. The

unbeliever faces those terrible times of affliction without having a covenant of peace with God. They have no port in the storm.

- a. But, it is also true that the unbeliever dies without eternal peace or security, so what awaits him will be eternal suffering and anguish without a moment of relief.

5. Benediction:

- a. **Job 2:10** But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Public Reading of Scripture
Job 2:1-10