



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Circles: Keeping Your Circle”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe- September 27, 2020

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What’s your favorite Disney movie?
- What is your favorite road trip snack?
- What is a quirky or unusual fear that you have?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

1 Samuel 20: 1-8

Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, “What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?”² And 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. And why should my father hide this from me? It is not so.”³ But David vowed again, saying, “Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thinks, ‘Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.’ But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death.”⁴ Then Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you say, I will do for you.”⁵ David said to Jonathan, “Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit at table with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field till the third day at evening.⁶ If your father misses me at all, then say, ‘David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the clan.’⁷ If he says, ‘Good!’ it will be well with your servant, but if he is angry, then know that harm is determined by him.⁸ Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you.

The one thing we all want and need is love. We go through life navigating relationships with family, friends, coworkers, and acquaintances that show us the best and worst of humanity’s ability to love. Our passage highlights the dynamics between three men – Saul, David, and Jonathan. Through their dynamics, we get an example of how to navigate rejection while experiencing love.

The passage recalls when David was fearful for his life because of Saul – the first king of Israel– who wanted him dead. At that point, Saul was a bitter, jealous, and evil man. Saul chose to disobey God's command in battle. Consequently, he was rejected as king and David anointed in his place. Saul loved David until the people showed their love for him more. From then on, Saul was out to get David. Yet he was afraid of David because God was with him. Case in point: Saul arranged for David to marry his eldest daughter under the agreement that he would be vigilant for him and fight the Lord's battles. Ultimately, Saul hoped that in battle– with the Philistines– David would be destroyed.

Just like Saul, we see that sometimes people who despise you are rooted in their rejection of God. In subsequent chapters, we learn that David does not decide to have the same attitude towards Saul. Instead, he seeks the good welfare of Saul and trusted God at every turn to guide and protect him. Ironically, Saul's son – Johnathan– was David's closest friend. After seeing David defeat the Philistine, Jonathan respected that God had chosen David to be king. Even to the point, that he gave David his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt. Jonathan made a covenant to be loyal to David over his father. Jonathan was after an eternal reward. In a later chapter, Jonathan says, "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.'"

David didn't let his relationship with Saul discredit his relationship with Jonathan and vice versa. Jonathan's loyalty and dedication to David depict God's love for humanity. God is the essence of love. While we were yet sinners Jesus died for us. As we navigate human relationships, let's keep in mind the love God has shown for us in Christ. Believers should be the ones who navigate those in our circle from a posture of heeding to the command of God, not from a place of favoring the approval of men.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Can you recall a time when you knew someone rejected you like Saul rejected David? How did you respond?
- Which relationship stood out to you the most and why? (David and Saul, David and Jonathan or Jonathan and Saul)
- Share a time when a close relationship drew you closer to God or further away.

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God that while we were still his enemies he died on the cross in our place.
- Ask God for strength and wisdom to navigate relationships with those in your circle.
- Ask God for the attitude of David towards Saul and the courage of Jonathan to be loyal to David over his father.