

"Challenging Relationships"

1 Samuel 19-20

Introduction: Is it ever right to tell a lie? As we read these stories people tell lies to protect David—is this right?

Saul & David - 1 Samuel 19:1-17

Summary: Saul has issues with David and his carnal inclinations are towards jealousy and envy and he has no inner help to resist those inclinations.

Saul & God - 1 Samuel 19:18-24 - Saul is intent on capturing and killing David but God steps in and prevents him from carrying out his scheme.

Precept: The Spirit of God in this story was a divine force that these men were unable to resist, because these men were not men of God; they were powerless to resist the influence of the Spirit of God.

Summary: The power of the Spirit of God is always greater than the power of hatred, envy and jealousy—always! That truth will never change and the circumstances of life have no bearing on it.

David & Jonathan - 1 Samuel 20:1-42 - Jonathan's words reveal his true heart.

The Covenant Plan - 1 Samuel 20:1-23

The Disgraceful Revelation - 1 Samuel 20:24-34

The Emotional End - 1 Samuel 20:35-42

Summary: There are always consequences to our choices and commitments and the choice that these two men made was no exception. The best part of the story is that God will honor their loyalty to truth as each man keeps his word. If my loyalty is to people I am on my own.

Conclusion: Saul had the Spirit of God resting upon him as did David. Only their continued loyalty to truth blessed their future.

When our relationships with people are void of truth we enjoy a very tenuous and potentially troubling future; but if the truth is the central part of any relationship it has the power to honor the Lord, and bless the future.

There are relationships that experience physical separation but that does not mean that there has to be relational separation and this story demonstrates it. Make a covenant today to live in harmony with God's truth and you will have true friends all over the world.

David and Jonathan had legitimate fear but they chose to give their energy to something that combats that fear, faithfulness to goodness and kindness, the essence of true covenant. They chose to individually be faithful to their commitments to each other no matter what happened and believe that their friend was truly seeking their best future. This is at the heart of true friendship. A true friend is naturally attracted to faithfulness and that leads to the defeat of fear—choose faithfulness.