

## 1 Samuel Lesson 38 Saul's Destructive Anger

### Key Themes in 1 Samuel

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

### Background:

**New Moon Festival:** Israel, which used a lunar calendar, marked the first day of the month with its "new moon phase" as a festival day. The festival was characterized by special offerings and the blowing of the trumpet. According to Amos 8:5 business ceased. Here in chapter 20 of 1 Samuel, Saul used the festival as an occasion to stage a state banquet.

**annual family sacrifice:** In David's time this meant an in gathering of the family at the clan site. Since it represented a higher level of obligation and familial loyalty, it could easily serve as a valid excuse for David to to absent himself from Saul's monthly celebration of the new moon.

**ceremonial uncleanness:** No one could participate in a festival if they were considered unclean. They could become unclean for a whole variety of reasons listed in the law.

### Key Words:

**covenant: Strong's H1262 "berith"** a covenant, a treaty, an alliance, or agreement. In basic terms, a covenant involves some kind of agreement or alliance made between 2 parties. Covenants in the Bible are made between God and man or man and man. An example of a covenant between God and man is the one made between Abraham and God. The only covenant in the Old Testament between man and man is the one between Jonathan and David and in that instance the word covenant means an alliance of friendship between 2 individuals.

### Read I Samuel 20:18-42

1. According to 1 Samuel 20:18-23 what was the purpose of David and Jonathan's plan? How did Jonathan see God in relation to his plan and his relationship to David?

2. After Jonathan carries out the plan, what was Saul's response in 20:30-31? What did this reveal about Saul's heart, his sinful choices, and his true relationship with his son?

**Application:** How can letting our emotions rule us lead to sinful choices and /or consequences? Saul's out of control emotions were anger and fear. What are biblical antidotes for both? See Ephesians 4:26, 27; Psalm 34:4; Psalm 56:3-4

3. Jonathan again tries to appeal to his father on behalf of David. What was Saul's response according to 20:33? What did this convince Jonathan of and how did he react emotionally?

4. Jonathan let David know his father's intentions to kill him through a clever plan. Their parting was sad. In 20:41-42 how did they again express their deep love and commitment to each other ? What losses were they incurring both individually and as friends?

**Application:** David waited in hiding for the arrow that would indicate his immediate future. The arrow showed David that he was going to be a fugitive. This was part of God's plan for his life. When you find that your life is taking a hard path, how do you react? Who do you seek?

5. Compare Jonathan and Saul's attitude towards the will of God which was that David had been anointed the future king. How did Jonathan's commitment to God's will cost Him?