

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, February 24, 2014

Three Arrows

1 Samuel 20:1-42 (*selected verses*)

Major Segments:

- David confides in Jonathan that he fears Saul wants to kill him.
- The two construct a plan to determine if David's fear of Saul is true.
- Jonathan tests his father and learns the truth.
- Jonathan shoots three arrows with instructions that David flee for his life.

Segment Questions:

- How would you describe the friendship between David and Jonathan?
- Why wasn't David concerned that Jonathan would conspire with Saul against him?
- Why does David ask Jonathan to kill him?
- What motivates Saul's fear of David?
- What was the pledge that Jonathan asked David to remember?

Action Questions:

- Have you ever had a friend like Jonathan? Has he ever betrayed your trust?
- Who is the one person you would most depend upon to protect your life?
- Have you ever ignored a direction from your father given to protect you?

Genesis 26:1-11

From: www.btstories.com

David said, "As sure as there is a God, and as sure as you're alive, your father wants to kill me. He doesn't tell you because he knows we're best friends."

Jonathan said, "What do you want me to do? Name it and I'll do it."

David said, "Tomorrow, I'm scheduled to go to a three-day banquet with the king. If he notices that I'm not there, tell him you gave me permission to go to Bethlehem for an annual sacrifice. Tell him it was important that I be there because it involves my entire clan.

"If your father accepts that answer, then we'll know all is well and he doesn't hate me. But if he gets angry, then it will be clear to both of us that he wants to kill me.

"Jonathan, if you find out that he has good reason to hate me, then come ... and kill me yourself."

"Here's my plan. Hide next to the big rock in the field. I'll find out what my father thinks about you. Then I'll come here and shoot three arrows toward the rock. I'll send my servant to get them. As he goes, I'll yell encoded instructions.

On the second day of the banquet Saul said to Jonathan, "Where is that son of Jesse? He's missed both days so far."

"Oh, I gave him permission to go to Bethlehem. His family is having a big annual sacrifice, and his brothers insisted that he be there."

Saul yelled at his son. "You son of a prostitute! I know what you're doing. You're taking his side. Don't you realize he's going to take away your kingdom? You're a shame to our family. Now go get him and bring him here so I can kill him."

Jonathan yelled back. "What has he done? Why do you want to kill him?"

Saul grabbed a spear and threw it at his son. Jonathan got up from the table and left. He didn't eat for a whole day because he was ashamed of his father.

In the morning, he went to the field with his servant. He shot three arrows out beyond the rock. As the servant ran out to get them, Jonathan yelled, "There on the other side of that rock. You need to hurry. Go as fast as you can."

The servant found the arrows and brought them back. Jonathan then told him to take the equipment and go back to the city. After he left, David came out of hiding. The two men hugged and cried. Jonathan said, "You're right. My father is determined to kill you. Go. But remember our pledge to one another, and between your children and my children." With that, David left, and Jonathan went back to the city.