

Understanding God's 'hesed' Steadfast Love

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1 Samuel 20:12-42

Oak Community Church (PCA)

Steadfast *hesed* Love

- 3x in this chapter: v8, 14 & 15.
- a love which looks beyond circumstances and holds true to the commitment of relationship.

Kingdom Reality

- Narrative about Jonathan & David but pictures God's great kingdom and His steadfast love
- They realize that God has a bigger plan for them^{14-14,23,42}
- Saul, king of flesh has been rejected
- David, anointed king has defeated great enemy^{1Cor15:25}
- Jonathan rejects lineage & entrusts himself to David and depends upon Steadfast *hesed* Love

Jonathan Needs Encouragement

- Jonathan knew David would be king – normal to exterminate potential foes, asks for *hesed* 14,15
- We come to God depending upon His Steadfast *hesed* Love
- David followed through: 2S9:1-8 - Mephibosheth
- Jesus likewise shows His own love to the end^{1Jn13:1-5, Lam3:22-26}
- You know you have it if you believe Jesus' work^{1Jn4:10}
- Don't be like Saul, seeking to earn God's favor^{Tit3:3-7}

A Playful Story of Secret Communication 18-23

- Out in field so they can't be overheard
- They set up a plan to communicate Saul's intentions
- They renew their covenant commitment²³

Saul's Character Revealed 24-34

- Masterful storytelling: David hid; Saul sat - great contrast!
- Saul is clueless why David isn't present...
- Saul can't even say David's name - son of Jesse²⁷
- Jonathan replies – Saul blasts him and his mother - tension
- Temptation of Jesus^{Lk4:5-6} also offered worldly kingdom
- Jonathan tries last time³² - he wanted to save his father
- We may also face persecution^{Jn15:20}

Silent Covenant Communication 35-42

- The arrow game unfolds as planned, boy was clueless³⁷⁻⁴⁰!
- Emotional reunion between David & Jonathan
- David pays honor^{bows^{3x}} to Jonathan - crown prince
- Again affirm covenant relationship before the Lord
- Believers: you have the same assurance because of the Steadfast *hesed* Love of God through Jesus so we can live in peace! 1 Jn 3:16;4:10 - Rom 15:4