

The other day I was changing Quinn's diaper and it was a mess. I was unprepared for the difficulty ahead of me and I ran out of wipes. But my hands were already messy and the only thing I could do was yell out for someone to come and help me.

There are times in life that are like that.

We all have moments where we need help.

Sometimes it is small things that don't really matter.

And sometimes we need help desperately and it does.

Sometimes we can no longer walk or take care of ourselves.

And sometimes our very life is at stake.

This morning we will find David in such a situation.

And as we look at our passage we are going to see where our help comes from.

Turn with me 1 Samuel 19-20

I. Help can come any way God wants (19)

We are going to see God over and over protect David.

We will actually see it for the rest of the book.

But in our chapter this morning, there will be 7 different times Saul tries to kill David.

And God will protect and deliver David from all of them.

This is a key moment for David.

And I believe it was meant to be a reminder for him in the years ahead.

It is a lesson he needs to learn and take to heart.

Jonathan shows us that God uses righteous people.

Verse 1, **"And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David."**

Saul is trying to get people on his side.

He wants to kill David.

And he wants help!

He tries to convince his servants and son to help in this conspiracy.

But Jonathan will not.

In verse 2, Jonathan warns David.

And he tells him to **"be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself."**

And Jonathan is going to go and confront Saul.

And whatever happens in the conversation, he will tell David.

We get exactly what Jonathan said to his father.

And it is remarkable and brave.

It is always hard to confront others in their sin.

But Jonathan does it boldly and clearly.

He tells his father, **"Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?"**

That is clear and undeniable.

Saul is confronted with the clear facts and record.

David has done nothing but serve Saul.

He has made Saul's life better.

And David has been used mightily by God in ways that Saul publicly praised.

It would be cold-blooded murder and a grievous sin to kill him.

There is no righteous cause or reason to do this.

And Saul relents.

At least for the moment.

Verse 6, **"And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to the death."**

Saul makes a vow and promise.

Another one that he will not keep.

But he is literally saying, "as long as God is alive, I will not kill David."

So, David is welcomed back and things go back to normal.

David has been saved from death again.

But problems come in verse 8.

David experiences another great victory against the Philistines.

It is so great that when the enemy hears David is coming, they just run.

But again Saul cannot take it.

In verse 9, he tries to kill David again with his spear.

But David escapes.

He has been saved from death for the 4th time.

David goes home and Saul makes another plan.

He sends **"messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, told him, "If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed."**

Saul's other child opposes him.

First his son,

Now his own daughter.

They are both used by God to save David's life.

And to warn him of the danger.

So, like Paul will later on.

David goes **"down through the window and he fled away and escaped."**

But then we get this interesting interlude of how Michal delays them.

And it seems strange.

At least it did to me as I was studying it this week.

Because we see in verse 13, **"Michal took an image and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head and covered it with the clothes."**

This is a very childish and humorous attempt of subterfuge.

She takes an idol and puts it in the bed to pretend it's him.

Our first question may be why is there an idol in David's house?

I think if we know anything about Saul and his spiritual state.

It should not surprise us that his daughter worships idols.

But I think something else is also going on here.

Because the messengers are fooled at first when she tells them he's sick in verse 14.

It all tells them to bring the entire bed.

Verse 16, **"And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head."**

Now it is discovered.

I think there's some irony in here.

Because Saul is clearly in sin for trying to kill David.

And Saul is obsessed with getting rid of his rival.

Saul is continuing to send more and more because he wants to hold onto his kingdom and his power.

I think it would be fair to say that getting his hands on David and killing him has become an idol in his life.

It is something that he will sacrifice anything to do and he will send to get a hold of.

And so here comes what he thinks is gonna bring him so much joy he finds out it is a literal idol.

You say, I think this part of the story is not just here to tell us how Michal bought David some time to escape.

I think it is illustrating it for us in plain language that Saul is worshiping idols.

Saul confronts his daughter in verse 17, and look at how she responds.

"Michal answered Saul, 'He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?'"

She lies.

And she says that David threatened her.

She appeals to Saul, saying he was going to kill me.

Now someone will say she is OK to lie because it saved David's life.

Or that line is justified because Saul does not deserve the truth because he is so sinful.

I'm not sure I agree with that.

I think the fact that we know she worships idols shows she's not righteous.

I also think that we should keep this in mind.
Because I do think her spiritual standing is a snare for David.
And next week in the next chapter, we are going to see David lie when he doesn't need to.

This incident should prove to Saul to Michal, and David that God can protect his people.
Saul should stop trying to kill David.
And David should trust the Lord.

It reminds us that God can use unrighteous means to help us.
It doesn't justify them.
It doesn't mean we can lie or deceive or sin as long as it helps.
But God is gracious enough and powerful enough, that He does not need us to be perfect in order to help.

Then we get to the most miraculous part of the story.
It's my favorite part of chapter 19.
Because God protects David in the most dramatic way.

Verse 18, **"Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth."**

David goes to the prophet Samuel.
And he tells him everything that has been happening.
He goes to the prophet of God to hear what he should do.
I think you could argue he should've done this earlier.
But there certainly is no better place that he can go.
Because Samuel will tell him clearly what God will do.
And so Samuel takes him and they go and live together.
This had been a form of time informative few days for David.

But Saul finds out in verse 19.
So he sends a messenger to take David.

"and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied."

The people coming to take David to his death.

When they get close to the prophets, they themselves start prophesying. It doesn't tell us what they prophesied.

But they were so overwhelmed with the spirit of God that they can't arrest the anointed one instead they prophesied.

They come back until so what happened and he sends more messengers. But those are also overwhelmed with the spirit and they prophecy.

So Saul sends a third group of messengers, who are also overwhelmed with the spirit and the prophecy.

Three different times people come to kill David, and only the miraculous intervention of God delivers him.

He makes those who hate him, praise the Lord.

And probably prophecy of the great things God will do.

But this doesn't make Saul stop.

Instead, he wants to go do it himself.

He comes down to a well.

He asks people where Samuel is.

This probably should remind him of the last time he was at a well and asked for Samuel.

Because the last time this happened he couldn't recognize Samuel.

His soul was in a poor spiritual condition.

And this time it is even worse.

Verse 23, **"And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah."**

Saul also starts prophesying.

He prophesies the entire way from the well to the city.

He is once again overwhelmed with the Spirit of God.

Verse 24, **"And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus is it said, 'Is Saul also among the prophets?'"**

His prophecy is different.

It is clearly a kind of punishment.

He is so overwhelmed by God that he strips naked.

And all day and night lays naked on the ground before God.

Adam and Eve when they were realized they're nakedness from God and tried to cover it up.

And so Saul, uncovering himself is not just God judgment and being embarrassing.

I think it is him filled with the spirit of having to acknowledge his nakedness and his shame in his failure before God.

And then we have the statement that was repeated once.

Once always anointed king he prophesied filled with the spirit.

And people said this.

Now they again ask if he's a prophet and it is mocking.

But this final one is a dramatic saving of David.

He is saved by the obvious power of the Holy Spirit.

One makes his enemies prophesy.

They are overwhelmed with God's power.

It should've been a very powerful reminder to David and to us.

God can keep us safe.

God is in control and God is watching over us.

Nothing is gonna be able to stop his purpose.

He can use a variety of people.

He can use any means God wants.

He uses the righteous.

He uses the unrighteous.

And sometimes He uses no one at all.

This should bring us comfort in this life.
Now this doesn't always mean that God will deliver us from everything.
It doesn't mean that we want to get sick or have chronic pain.
It doesn't mean that God will always save us from dying.

God made a specific promise to David.
Got anointed him and said you will be the king.
Because God keeps his promises, David can know that whatever
circumstance he finds himself in, God will keep his word.

II. Help comes from the covenant promises of God (20).

We can trust God to keep His promises.
This is really what chapter 20 is about.
It is long.
It seems like it's just Jonathan and David talking back-and-forth.
There's this elaborate thing with the arrows and the young boy.
But if we look closely, at the heart of it is the appeal to promises.
It is the appeal to the covenant.

So as we look at it, we were gonna see
We can rely on the promises of the covenant.
David and Jonathan are going to rely on their covenant.
But even more so we can rely on God's.

Verse 1 tells us that David flees.
He actually leaves where Samuel is.
And instead, he goes to Jonathan to ask why this is happening.
I am not sure that David should have fled.
He was safe with the prophets.
The Holy Spirit had clearly protected him.
But for whatever reason, he flees.

But I do think he makes a good choice.
Because it is never wrong to appeal to the covenant promises.

I want you to keep this in mind.
Because this is at the core of what David is doing.
And it is what Jonathan does too.

David comes to Jonathan and asks why Saul is trying to kill him.
Jonathan at first doesn't believe David.
He says that this cannot be true.
Because he thinks Saul would have told him.

But then David responds in verse 3 with a vow.
He tells Jonathan that this is true.
That Saul is not telling him because he knows Jonathan is loyal to David.
And He vows **"As the LORD lives and as your soul lives"**
So David is making a promise.

And Jonathan responds in 4 by saying he will do whatever David wants.
And then we get this back-and-forth as David explains the plan.
Which is that there's a big feast happening.
David is expected to be there.
He's planning on being absent.
So he wants Jonathan to tell Saul when he asks where David is that he's
making sacrifices and worshiping the Lord with his family in Bethlehem.
Because if Saul is angry, it will prove he wants to kill David.
But I really want you to pay attention to verse 8.
Because this is where David is appealing to the covenant promises that
Jonathan made.

**"Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your
servant into a covenant of the Lord with you. But if there's guilt in me,
kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?"**

David is asking that Jonathan keep his word.
In chapter 18, Jonathan made a covenant with David and promised to be
loyal and to protect David.
And so David is asking him to keep his promises.

He's asking him to deal with him and kindness.

He is asking for covenant loyalty..

And he's saying if I am guilty, and if I have violated the covenant, then you kill me.

So don't take me to your father you do it yourself.

Jonathan objects.

And he says in verse 9, if I know what happens, I will keep it.

And he says that I'll tell you.

Then they wanna know how they're gonna communicate these messages back-and-forth.

And so Jonathan has the idea of him hiding out in the field.

But then we see Jonathan reaffirm his covenant in verse 13.

Jonathan says, **"But should it please my father to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also if I do not disclose it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. may the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father."**

There's a whole lot here.

Jonathan says that if my dad wants to kill you and I betray you.

If I don't tell you that.

If I betray the covenant promises that I have made.

Then may God do worse to me.

He also gives him the blessings of the covenant.

And he says May God continue to be with you.

And he reaffirms the covenant promises he has made by saying may God be with you like he was with my father.

He is affirming again. He wants David to be king.

He is asking that David have the blessings of the king.

And then in 14, Jonathan asked that David would also keep his end of the covenant.

"If I am still alive, show me that steadfast love of the Lord, that I may not die;"

The steadfast love.

In Hebrew, "hesed"; in Greek, it is often agape.

And it is the covenant loyalty and the faithfulness of the covenant.

He says when you become king, if I'm still there keep the covenant you made with me.

You don't need to kill me because I am loyal to you.

And he asks for more than 15, **"and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."**

Jonathan asked that not everybody in his house die.

Because when a new king keeps the throne, you gotta get rid of all the other people who could claim to be the king.

That's why Saul is trying to get rid of David

Jonathan is appealing and asking that David would remember his faithfulness.

That David would remember not all of those in Saul's household hate him.

And he says, and declares that he knows God will cut off one of his enemies.

And Jonathan reaffirms the covenant in 16. **"And Jonathan made a covenant with the House of David, saying, may the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies."**

So again we have the covenant is front and center.

He is promising that he is on David's side and he is against all of David's enemies.

And he asks that God would keep his promises and wipe out David's enemies, even if it's his own house.

Verse 17, **"and Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul."**

David also swears the covenant.

They affirm their promises to one another.

They affirm their love and their loyalty to one another.

But again, this is not about two men's individual relationship or friendship or intimacy.

This is about their faithfulness and their belief in the covenant promises of God.

So they come up with their plan.

On the third day, David is to hide by a stone.

I think there's some foreshadowing of Jesus writing on the third day.

But he will shoot three arrows and if he tells the boy to come, then David can come if he tells the boy to go then David needs to go.

Verse 23, **"And as for the matter of which you and I have spoken, behold, the LORD is between you and me forever."**

He again is appealing to the promises that they have made.

And Jonathan is saying God will keep this covenant.

But if either one of us violates it, God will judge and bring justice.

And so David and Jonathan goes back and saw notices. David is not there.

What's interesting in verse 26 is that assumes **"He is not clean; surely he is not clean."**

If David was unclean, he couldn't come to the meal.

And so Saul assumes he must be absent because he's been sitting and has to get right with God.

There are some irony that Saul is unclean, but he is assuming David is not.

But verse 27, he notices and he asks Jonathan.

And Jonathan responds by telling Saul exactly what David told him to say.

And we see Saul is not just angry, but it explodes.

Verse 30, **"then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, you, son of a perverse, rebellious woman, do I not know that**

you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, into the shame of your mother's nakedness?"

He is unleashing himself on Jonathan.

He is insulting, not just Jonathan but his own wife.

And he's angry because he knows that Jonathan is loyal to David.

That Jonathan has chosen covenant loyalty not to the crown king to the anointed king.

And he says it is to Jonathan shame and shame, his mother and his family.

Which is not true because Jonathan's faithfulness, though it is very costly to himself brings honor.

And now we look at Jonathan as we read his story and we see that he might be the most righteous person in the whole book.

Verse 31, **"for as long as the son of Jesse, live lives on the Earth, neither you, nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, he shall surely die.."**

Makes it clear what he wants.

And he also explicitly says Jonathan you are costing yourself everything.

Jonathan's loyalty to the covenant promises that he has made is costly.

It is hard.

And Jonathan rebukes his father by saying, **"What has he done?"**

Is confirming the issue that all can't kill David he has done nothing wrong.

He is innocent.

Saul responds by trying to kill Jonathan.

And Jonathan leaves in anger and grieves **"for David, because his father had disgraced him."**

I cannot help but love Jonathan..

He is so loyal that he grieves not his own relationship with his father, not all the things that he has lost that his faithfulness has caused him, but he grieves for the anointed king.

So he goes and he warns David.

And they embrace one another and they weep.

Verse 42, **"then Jonathan said to David, 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, between my offspring and your offspring, forever."**

They weep, but they were reminded of the covenant.

And there's the benediction that I give you every week to go in peace.

That, even though they are separated, they can trust that they will keep the promises and that God will keep his promises.

I want you to see that what Jonathan does and the way he behaves and the way that David behaves is not just two friends who made a promise that are keeping it.

They are keeping the covenant that they made with God.

And the way that they act in the loyalty that they showed to one another is the same loyalty that we are called to show to Jesus.

They both are appealing to a covenant made before God.

And a covenant based on the promises and anointing of God.

And they go for safety and depend on the promise.

That is what we are to do as followers of Jesus.

We are and we can, and we should depend on the promises of God.

God has not made covenant promises that we will be king or president.

David can have faith because he knows there's no way he can die. God will keep his promise.

God has not promised that we will not experience suffering or sickness or death. In fact, He promises that we can expect it.

He even promises that we can expect to be hated by the world

We can expect to be persecuted by the world.

We can expect many trials and snares.

He promises rest for the weary and the burdened.

And yet He promises that He will be with us to the end of the age.

He promises in this world we will have trouble, but He has overcome.
And He promises that He will redeem and restore everything that the locust have eaten.

He promises that He will turn all things to good for those who love Him.
He promises that He is preparing a place for us better than we can ever imagine.

He promises that one day He will wipe away every tear from our eyes.
He promises that one day we will be rewarded for every moment of quiet obedience.

He promises that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us.
He promises that His mercies are new every morning.

He promises to hear us when we cry out to Him.

He promises

He promises that one day everything that we have paid the price for is worth it.

He promises that all who trusted him, even if they die, will go and be with him.

And he promises that those who trust in His name, will one day hear him say Arise.

And that all who trust in Jesus will be not just born again, but resurrected again to new life in the New World.

All of His promises are yes and amen.

Those are just some of the promises of the covenant that Jesus has made with us.

So when you find yourself in danger.

When you find your life threatened.

When the diagnosis is not what you hoped.

When life is not going well.

Call upon the covenant promises of God.

Sometimes God will send us aid in miraculous ways.

Sometimes He will help in mundane and ordinary ways.

And much of the time we will not see what He is doing.

But we know He will keep His promises.