

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Blood Covenant

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 2 Samuel 9:1-13

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) 1 Samuel 18:4
- b) One of the greatest truths that we will ever learn and one of the greatest concepts that we can ever know is the truth of the blood covenant and the concept of the blood covenant.
- c) A blood covenant was an unbreakable partnership between two people who greatly loved and trusted one another.
 - i) The blood covenant was practiced not only in Bible times, but historians tell us that it has been practiced by most primitive tribes.
- d) When people who were very close friends entered into a covenant, there was a mutual mingling of lives.
- e) A blood covenant involved three things:
 - i) A sharing of possessions
 - (1) Many times, to symbolize that they were in covenant with one another, their possessions would be co-owned and co-mingled.
 - (a) For example, if you entered into a covenant with someone, you would take off your coat or tunic (which would represent your possessions) and give it to that person.
 - (b) This would symbolize that what you have belongs to the person with whom you are in covenant.
 - ii) A sharing of protection
 - (1) If you were ever in a battle or a fight, you could count on the other person to be at your side.
 - (2) The enemies of one of the persons in the covenant would be the enemies of the other, just as the friends of the one would be the friends of the other.
 - (3) In order to symbolize this, many times they would exchange an implement of war (such as a hatchet, a sword or a spear).
 - (a) Whenever you're in trouble, my weapons and my hand are yours, and I'll fight your battles with you or even for you.
 - iii) A sharing of personhood
 - (1) An incision or cut would often be made in the wrist of the right hand of each person.
 - (2) These hands would be clasped where the wrists would touch and the blood would co-mingle.
 - (3) With their hands clasped, they would lift their hands to Heaven and pledge themselves one to the other and pronounce that the very lifeblood that flows through one now flows through the other.
 - (a) They have become blood brothers.
- f) David and Jonathan made a blood covenant.
- g) When people entered into covenant, they had a new attitude one toward another.
 - i) The Bible calls this attitude "lovingkindness."
 - (1) This is a blood covenant word.

- ii) The word “friend” is also a blood covenant word.
 - (1) We use the word “friend” very lightly today, but it was not meant to be used lightly.
 - (2) People who were in blood covenant, one with the other, were called friends.
- iii) Proverbs 18:24
 - (1) If you’re in a blood covenant with someone, your relationship (your duties and responsibilities) to that person are understood to be closer than your duties and responsibilities to a brother of the flesh.
- h) 1 Samuel 18:1-4
 - i) In verse four, we see the sharing of possessions and the sharing of protection.
 - ii) In verse three, we see a sharing of personhood itself.
 - iii) There could not be a deeper commitment than the one Jonathan and David made one to another on that day.
- i) After Jonathan and David made the covenant, Saul became more and more insanely jealous of David.
 - i) 1 Samuel 19:1-3
 - ii) Saul was so insane with rage and eaten up with envy that his decree went out to everyone to kill David.
 - (1) David is then hunted like a wild animal, hiding in holes and caves.
 - iii) But Jonathan was more loyal to David at this time than he was to his own father.
 - (1) There is a sense in which Jonathan was guilty of treason, not only against the king, but disloyalty to his own father.
 - (2) Jonathan now had a higher relationship.
 - iv) Jonathan took David’s side and came to his aid because they are now blood brothers.
- j) Later on, both Jonathan and Saul were slain by the Philistines.
 - i) 1 Samuel 31:1-5
- k) David, God’s anointed, became king over Israel.
 - i) David now has virtually unlimited power as a king.
- l) 2 Samuel 9:1
 - i) It is likely that when David began to ask if there were any left of the house of Saul, that everyone there thought that he was going to take vengeance upon his enemies.
 - (1) They likely thought that David was going to root out the last vestige of the family of Saul and persecute them to death.
 - ii) When a person entered into covenant with another, not only did he enter into covenant with that person, but he also entered into covenant with the relatives, children and offspring of that person.
- m) 2 Samuel 9:2-6
 - i) When Saul and Jonathan were slain and it was obvious that David (Saul’s enemy) would be king, there was panic in the household of Saul.

- (1) Everyone started to flee.
- ii) There was a nurse who had been given the job of taking care of Jonathan's son, a baby named Mephibosheth.
- iii) Thinking perhaps that the baby would be harmed because he was Saul's grandson, the nurse ran out with the little baby in order to hide the baby.
 - (1) The nurse was in such a panic and in such a hurry that she tripped and fell with the baby in her arms.
 - (2) The weight of her body crushed the baby beneath her, and the little baby's legs were hopelessly mangled in the fall.
 - (3) From that time on, the baby was lame in his feet and was crippled.
- iv) The nurse took the baby to a hideout called Lodebar.
 - (1) The name itself means "a place of no pasture."
 - (2) Lodebar was a dark, dingy, dirty hideaway.
 - (3) It's likely that the nurse continually warned Mephibosheth that David was his enemy and that he had to always hide from David.
 - (a) Mephibosheth grew up fearing David and hating David.
 - (b) All the while, Mephibosheth was in a blood covenant relationship with David.
- v) When Mephibosheth sees the king's entourage coming for him, he likely thinks that he will be killed.
- vi) Mephibosheth is taken to the palace.
 - (1) He has never even seen the palace before.
 - (2) He hopes for mercy, but he knows that the sentence of death is upon him.
- n) 2 Samuel 9:7-10
 - i) Mephibosheth now has to decide whether to refuse the terms of the covenant and continue to be an enemy of David and receive the judgment that was due, or to personally ratify the covenant and receive the benefits and blessings of the covenant.
 - (1) Mephibosheth made the right decision.
 - ii) Yesterday, Mephibosheth was an outcast, a rebel and an enemy.
 - (1) Today, he is an insider and a friend.
 - iii) Yesterday, he was in a hideout.
 - (1) Today, he is in a palace.
 - iv) Last night, he slept on a mat of straw.
 - (1) Tonight, he sleeps on silken sheets.
 - v) Yesterday, he had nothing.
 - (1) Today, he is wealthy.
- o) It is likely that Mephibosheth noticed the scar on David's wrist.
 - i) In those days when they would make a covenant, they would rub dark powder into the wound and leave a mark there.
 - (1) It was called "a mark of the covenant" to remind them.
 - ii) Mephibosheth knew that all of these blessings were because of the covenant his father had made with David.

- (1) He didn't deserve it and probably didn't completely understand it, but he did not deny it.
 - (2) He enjoyed it.
- p) All of the Bible is about the blood covenant.
 - i) The Bible is divided into two parts:
 - (1) The Old Testament (the Old Covenant)
 - (2) The New Testament (the New Covenant)
 - (a) The words "testament" and "covenant" are the same word.
 - ii) Every blessing that we receive is a covenant blessing.
 - iii) Psalm 25:14
- q) What happened to David, Jonathan and Mephibosheth is a marvelous illustration of what happens to us when we become a Christian, a child of God.
 - i) When the Lord Jesus Christ died upon the cross, He entered into a blood covenant with God the Father on our behalf.
 - ii) Luke 22:20
 - (1) The Lord Jesus is instituting the Last Supper.
 - iii) In a covenant, there is a sharing, a mingling of blood.
 - iv) When Jesus died upon the cross, what kind of blood was shed?
 - (1) It was human blood because Jesus Christ was a human.
 - (2) It was also divine blood, for Jesus Christ is God.
 - (a) Acts 20:28
 - (i) God has purchased the church with His own blood.
 - v) When Jesus died upon the cross, God's blood and the blood of man were mingled.
 - (1) A covenant between God and man was made at the cross.
 - (2) Jesus is the God-man.
 - (a) He was as much man as though He were not God at all, and He was as much God as though He were not man at all.
 - (b) He wasn't half God and half man.
 - (c) He wasn't all man and no God.
 - (d) He is the God-man.
 - vi) On the cross when Jesus died, He was making an immutable, unbreakable and everlasting covenant between the sons and daughters of men and Almighty God.
 - (1) Because of what Jesus did, we can be forgiven.
 - vii) Jonathan pictures Jesus on the cross making a blood covenant for us.
- r) Mephibosheth represents us as an unsaved sinner.
 - i) Mephibosheth was an enemy by birth.
 - (1) So are we.
 - (2) Mephibosheth was born into the household of Saul.
 - ii) Mephibosheth was crippled by a fall.
 - (1) In the Garden of Eden, we were all spiritually and morally crippled.
 - (2) Therefore, Mephibosheth could not come on his own.

- iii) He had to be sought, and he had to be brought.
 - (1) And so do we.
 - iv) He was meant to reign, but he had lost his inheritance.
 - (1) He was meant to be a king, but he was living in exile.
 - (2) We were meant to reign.
 - (a) God made man to have dominion, but we've been living in a spiritual Lodebar.
 - v) Mephibosheth was under the sentence of death.
 - (1) He deserved death, and so do we.
 - (2) He knew that he deserved death.
 - (a) 2 Samuel 9:8
 - vi) He thought that David was his enemy when David was actually his friend.
 - vii) This is a picture of every man, woman, boy and girl outside of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) We are deformed, dethroned, doomed and deceived.
 - viii) Though Mephibosheth could not come (he had to be sought) and would not come (he had to be brought), he still had a decision to make.
 - (1) 2 Samuel 9:1
 - (2) Ephesians 4:32
 - (3) Just as David forgave Mephibosheth for Jonathan's sake, God has forgiven us for Christ's sake.
 - s) The rest of today's message will show us several things that we receive when we enter into a blood covenant with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, as illustrated by what Mephibosheth received when David forgave him so long ago.
- 2) THE KING'S FORGIVENESS (2 SAMUEL 9:7)
- a) 2 Samuel 9:7
 - i) "Fear not" means that Mephibosheth was forgiven.
 - (1) The sentence of death was no longer upon him.
 - ii) The words "kindness" and "lovingkindness" are blood covenant words.
 - b) Psalm 51:1
 - i) Since "lovingkindness" is a blood covenant word, David knew that he could be forgiven.
 - c) Because of the blood covenant that the Lord Jesus Christ made on the cross, we have the King's forgiveness.
- 3) THE KING'S FELLOWSHIP (2 SAMUEL 9:7-13)
- a) Four times in 2 Samuel 9, the Holy Spirit mentioned that Mephibosheth is eating at the king's table.
 - i) 2 Samuel 9:7
 - ii) 2 Samuel 9:10
 - iii) 2 Samuel 9:11
 - iv) 2 Samuel 9:13

- b) To sit down at someone's table as their guest signifies the most intimate of fellowship.
 - c) We're very thankful to God for His forgiveness, but being saved is far more than getting our sins forgiven.
 - i) Our sins are forgiven so that we can have fellowship with the King.
 - d) Mephibosheth was sitting at the king's table, not just for one meal, but continually.
 - i) 2 Samuel 9:7
- 4) THE KING'S FORTUNE (2 SAMUEL 9:9-10)
- a) 2 Samuel 9:9-10
 - i) When we get saved, we also get the King's fortune.
 - b) Matthew 5:5
 - i) We are heirs and joint-heirs with the Lord Jesus.
 - c) Just as Mephibosheth received servants, we have also received servants.
 - i) Angels (ministering spirits) serve us and wait upon the children of God.
 - (1) Unseen angels that are God's special agents and servants to work for His dear children.
- 5) THE KING'S FAMILY
- a) 1 John 3:1
 - b) As Christians, we are children of Almighty God through the blood covenant.
 - c) Because of what the Lord Jesus did for us on the cross, when God looks at us, He sees in us His own dear Son.
 - i) And we sit at His table, enjoying His fellowship as a child of the King.
 - ii) One day, we were rebels and outcasts.
 - (1) We were ruined and crippled.
 - iii) Then, we received Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord.
 - (1) We ratified the terms of the covenant.
 - (a) We agreed with the terms of the covenant.
 - (2) We said "yes" to Jesus Christ (our Heavenly David).
 - iv) The next day, we're seated in Heavenly places.
 - (1) We're royal bluebloods seated with the King.
 - (2) The wealth of Heaven and Earth is ours.
 - (a) Matthew 5:5
 - (3) We are now sons and daughters of Almighty God.
 - d) When we realize all that we have through this covenant relationship, our first thought is that we're not worthy.
 - i) The devil will come alongside of us to enforce that thought of our unworthiness.
 - ii) We need to stop this kind of thinking.
 - (1) These blessings are not ours because of who we are or what we've done, but because of whose we are.
 - iii) It is true that we're not worthy.

- (1) We're no more worthy than Mephibosheth was worthy.
 - iv) Just step out of that argument with the devil and point him to the blood covenant.
 - v) This is the kindness of God for Jesus' sake.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) If you are a Christian (if you have been saved), then you are in the blood covenant.
 - i) This means that the possessions of Jesus are your possessions.
 - ii) The protection of Jesus is your protection.
 - iii) The person of Jesus is your person.
 - (1) His life and your life are mingled forevermore.
 - b) What a friend we have in Jesus!
 - i) Proverbs 18:24
 - ii) Psalm 25:14
 - c) You no longer have to be a slave to feelings.
 - i) Feelings don't have anything to do with it.
 - d) You no longer have to be intimidated by your weakness.
 - i) It's not your responsibility, but it's your response to His ability.
 - e) If you've never been saved, you can become a child of the King today by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16