

Devotional Thought

Month of August 2008

THEME: Jonathan Reconciles Saul to David

Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: “As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be put to death. So Jonathan called and told him the whole conversation, He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.

1 Samuel 19:6-7

We see in this whole episode between Saul and David that Jonathan shows great courage. He knows that David has done his father, Saul, no wrong. He also knows that his father has made many attempts to have David killed and that David had been forced to live like a hunted animal. But Jonathan loves David!

What a sticky situation – Jonathan interceding between his father and his beloved friend! Jonathan and David were dear friends and there had been this difficult relationship between Jonathan’s father, Saul, and his friend. Saul had attempted to kill David and he also knew of his son’s love for David. . Jonathan has a plan. His is going to try to talk to his father. Saul could have had Jonathan killed for daring to oppose him. The throne was promised to David. Jonathan has nothing material to gain by standing up for David, yet his longing to see these two men co-exist peacefully overshadowed his concern for his own welfare.

At various times in our Christian lives we may need to “calm the waters” between others in our relationships. The job of a peacemaker is seldom easy or pleasant, but in its purest form, peacemaking is motivated by love for people. The peacemaker sets aside personal feelings in order to focus on the best interest of the other person or persons involved. He or she seeks to restore healthy relationships as a base for reconciliation.

No doubt we have all experienced the soothing effect of a peacemaker in our lives. How well do we serve as peacemakers in our homes, in our churches, or on our jobs when we are called upon to do the same in broken relationships?

Prayer: Holy Father, teach us to clear up daily tensions in relationships so that they don’t become hurdles to be dealt with later. Develop in us a growing love for others so that when reconciliation becomes necessary it can be carried out in their best interest and to Your honor.
AMEN.

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