

Friendship

1 Samuel 18, 1-11

¹When [David] finished speaking with Saul, Jonathan's soul became bound up with the Soul of David; Jonathan loved David as himself. ²Saul took him [into his service] that day and would not let him return to his father's house. - ³Jonathan and David made a pact, because [Jonathan] loved him as himself. ⁴Jonathan took off the cloak and tunic he was wearing and gave them to David, together with his sword, bow and belt. ⁵David went out with the troops, and he was successful in every mission on which Saul sent him, and Saul put him in command of all the soldiers; this pleased all the troops and Saul's courtiers as well. ⁶When the [troops] came home [and] David returned from killing the Philistine, ^a the women of all the towns of Israel came out singing and dancing to greet King Saul ^{-a} with timbrels, shouting and sistrums.^b ⁷The women sang as they danced, and they chanted:

Saul has slain his thousands;
David, his tens of thousands!

⁸Saul was much distressed and greatly vexed about the matter. For he said, "To David they have give tends of thousands, and to me they have given thousands. All that he lacks is the kingship!" ⁹From that day on Saul kept a jealous eye on David. ¹⁰The next day an evil spirit of God gripped Saul and he began to rave in the house, while David was playing [the Lyre] , as he did daily. Saul had a spear in his hand, ¹¹ and Saul threw ^c the spear, thinking to pin David to the wall. But David eluded him twice. ^[END]

Notes

^{a-a} *Meaning of Heb. Uncertain; Septuagint reads "the dancing women came out to meet David from all the towns of Israel."*

^b *Meaning of Heb. Uncertain*

^c *Change of vocalization yields "raised."*



Friendship

1 Samuel 20, 1-17

¹ David fled from Naioth in Ramah; he came to Jonathan and said, "What have I done, what is my crime and my guilt against your father, that he seeks my life?"

² He replied, "Heaven forbid! You shall not die. My father does not do anything, great or small, without disclosing it to me; why should my father conceal this matter from me? It cannot be!" ³ David ^{a-}swore further^{-a}, "Your father knows well that you are fond of me and has decided: Jonathan must not learn of this or he will be grieved. But, as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."

⁴ Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want, I will do it for you."

⁵ David said to Jonathan, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and I ^{b-}am to sit with the king at the meal. Instead, let^{-b} me go and I will hide in the countryside until the third ^c evening. ⁶ If your father notes my absence, you say, 'David asked my permission to run down to his home town, Bethlehem, for the whole family has its annual sacrifice there.' ⁷ If he says 'Good,' your servant is safe; but if his anger flares up, know that he is resolved to do [me] harm. ⁸ Deal faithfully with your servant, since you have taken your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. And if I am guilty, kill me yourself, but don't make me go back to your father."

⁹ Jonathan replied, "Don't talk like that! If I learn that my father has resolved to kill you, I will surely tell you about it." ¹⁰ David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me if ^d your father answers you harshly?" ¹¹ Jonathan said to David, "Let us go into the open"; and they both went out into the open. ¹² ^eThen Jonathan said to David, "By the LORD, the God of Israel! I will sound out my father at this time tomorrow, [or] on the third day; and if [his response] is favorable for David, I will send a message to you at once and disclose it to you. ¹³ But if my father intends to do you harm, may the LORD do thus to Jonathan and more if I do [not] disclose it to you and send you off to escape unharmed. May the LORD be with you, as HE used to be with my father. ¹⁴ Nor shall you fail to show me the LORD's faithfulness, while I am alive; nor, when I am dead, ¹⁵ shall you ever discontinue your faithfulness to my house - not even after the LORD has wiped out every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth. ¹⁶ This has Jonathan covenanted with the house of David; and may the LORD requite the enemies for David!" ¹⁷ Jonathan, out of his love for David, adjured^g him again, for he loved him as himself. [END]

Notes

a-a Septuagint reads "replied to him."

b-b Septuagint reads "will not sit...meal. Let..."

c Septuagint lacks "third."

d Meaning of Heb. uncertain.

e The meaning of several parts of vv, 12-16 is uncertain.

² *f-f* i.e. the faithfulness pledged in the covenant before the LORD.

⁹ Septuagint reads "swore to."



Friendship

John 15, 9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants^a any longer, because the servant^b does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. [END]

Notes

- a* Greek "slaves"
b Greek "slave"

2 Corinthians 6, 14-18

¹⁴ Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? ¹⁵ What agreement does Christ have with Beliar? Or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." [END]



Friendship

Q 21 (The Prophets), 92

⁹² [Messengers], ^a this community of yours is one single community and I am your Lord, so serve Me.

Q 5 (The Feast): 51, 55-57

⁵¹ You who believe, do not take the Jews and Christians as allies:^b they are allies only to each other. Anyone who takes them as an ally becomes one of them - God does not guide such wrongdoers-

⁵⁵ Your true allies are God, his Messenger, and the believers- those who keep up the prayer, pay the prescribed alms, and bow down in worship. ⁵⁶ Those who turn for protection to God, his Messenger, and the believers [are God's party]: God's party is sure to triumph.

⁵⁷ You who believe, do not take as allies those who ridicule your religion and make fun of it- whether people who were given the scripture before you, or disbelievers - and be mindful of God if you are true believers. [END]

Notes

^a Cf. 34: 12-23

^b i.e. those who are against the Muslim camp, as is clear from the following verses, up to 59. 'Do not turn to them as allies in preference to the Muslims' (see 4: 144)

Sources & Acknowledgements

Scriptural Reasoning should be undertaken with the sacred scriptures available in their original versions. These English texts are intended only as an aid to those unfamiliar with the original versions.

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