

**1 Samuel 18:12-20:42**  
**When God's Promises Feel Like Lies!**  
**Life of David Series**  
**(David: After God's Own Heart)**

I think one of the hardest things to deal with in the Christian life is when you are following God with all your heart

A) Taking steps of faith – trying to do the right things for the right reasons

B) And things are not turning out the way that you hoped! –

1) Problems are escalating – trials are mounting.

C) You find yourself asking the question – why is this happening – did I do something wrong?

D) That is where David finds himself in 1 Samuel 18

**At this particular point we find David going through a trial which tested his faith and endurance to the limit**

A) Every outward circumstance seemed to contradict God's plan for David's life....

B) Recall anointed by Prophet Samuel – His Calling

C) But His current circumstances made God's promises to look like lies.

D) That can happen to us at times too – We tend to think that A+B=C

E) But when that is not happening we can be prone to think – what am I doing wrong?

Now it is in those circumstances –

A) We have to come to that place where we MUST decide what are we going to be ruled by

**B) Are we going to be ruled by our circumstances that presently make no sense to us**

**C) Are we going to be ruled by our emotions that can be all over the place**

**D) Or are we going to be ruled by what we know to be true about God?**

E) Let's see how this all plays out in the life of David

**Road map for today: Two parts**

**Part 1 - David's Difficult Season.**

\*Difficult seasons call for a Desperate need of truth

- Difficult seasons call for Dependable friends
- Difficult seasons call for Deep faith

**Road Map for today Part 2**

**In Difficult seasons we have a Stone of Ezel to Hide in.**

- A Place of Trust
- A Place of Transition
- A Place of Testimony

**DAVID'S DIFFICULT SEASON**

A) Seen that David has been living to please God –

B) He takes a HUGE step of faith in volunteering to fight Goliath

C) God gave him the Victory – David Star is rising –

1) He is thrust into a position of leading troops into Battle –

D) And once again he is Victorious – People are singing his praises –

E) The #1 Song on the charts is Saul has slain his 1,000's - David his 10K's

And that is when the trouble starts.

A) King Saul becomes insanely Jealous!

B) He starts chucking spears at David – trying to pin him to the Wall –

C) But each time David was able to elude the murder attempt.

1) Saul ends up sending David back out to battle/ NO DOUBT/ hoping DAVID will get killed in the fight

D) But God keeps blessings David - Chapter 18:12 –  
<sup>12</sup> Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. <sup>14</sup> And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.

E) Now Rather than seeing this is my successor – Saul is threatened by David's presence

So He orchestrates a series of events in hopes of bringing David Down

A)The First thing he does is he seeks to put a woman in David's life to bring him down.

B)Remember when David defeated Goliath that Saul and promised the man who did that 3 things:

1)Great riches

2)No Taxes for his father's family

3)My Daughter as a bride.

C)Saul's oldest Daughter was Merab- she should have been the prize for the man who killed Goliath

D)But when she became of age – Saul gave her to someone else.

E)But now in this moment when King Saul is wanting to Destroy David –

1)he decides to give David his daughter Michal as a wife

<sup>20</sup> Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. <sup>21</sup> So Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him

Now that is not a nice thing to say about your daughter –

A)I will give her to him that she might be a snare to him.

B)Get this problem child out of my home ....

C)This could be taken in two ways: #1 The Dowry – it was customary to give a dowry for a bride

And the Dowry that Saul requested was 100 foreskins of the Philistines –

A)really gross – don't think about that too much

David was going to have to kill 100 philistines

B)Saul is no doubt hoping that David gets killed in the Process

C)It could also mean that Saul knew Michal's Character – she was difficult

1)And he was hoping that his daughter would trip up David

D)And we will definitely see some pour things about her Character later in the story.

Well David Delivers on the Foreskins and gets to marry Michal

<sup>28</sup> Thus Saul saw and knew that the LORD *was* with David, and *that* Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him; (This is great – I have an awesome new son in law- Nope ) <sup>29</sup> and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually. (Awkward family gatherings)

A)Once again rather than getting on board with the plan of God – Saul continues to fight against it

<sup>30</sup> Then the princes of the Philistines went out *to war*. And so it was, whenever they went out, *that* David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed. (wisely, very wisely, more wisely)

B)David is doing everything right, God's hand is on him – his favor is growing in the Kingdom.

C)But King Saul's hatred of him is growing as well.

D)So much so that in Chapter 19 – King Saul puts a contract out on David's life

Now Jonathan steps in and reasons with his dad – is able to get his dad to see the error of his ways

A)Saul backs off.... But it doesn't last long

B)King Saul once again commissions men to Kill David

C)At this point David is at his wits end – Wondering what have I done and why is this happening –

1)that is where we pick up the story in Ch. 20

Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?"

Notice the questions of David—

A)What did I do? How have I sinned? How have I gone wrong? How have I misread this?

**B)You know what's interesting?**

**1)When we walk with the Lord, we get confused when life doesn't turn out the way we think it should,**

C)when people come against us and say things or do things against us.

1) We get confused, and we think, well, what did I do wrong?

D) You may have done nothing wrong. You may have done everything right.

In this case - The fault wasn't on David's end. The fault was on Saul's end.

A) Sometimes just following the Lord, just loving God, just trusting Jesus,

B) That is enough to get unbelievers to hate you.

C) So David was uptight he is despairing-

1) As the pressure is building – David isn't handling it very well.

**D) Fear is taking root in his heart - – RP *Fear Greatest enemy of our faith***

**Fear causes Despair – fear blows things out of Proportion:**

**A) Fear doesn't need truth - it just needs imagination**

B) If fear is unchecked it creates a world of what if's that often never happen

1) But they hold us hostage – What if.....

C) So David is in a Difficult season that is causing him to question everything

**First point: Difficult seasons call for a Desperate need of truth**

A) Truth TRUMPS FEAR! Or it should

Pastor Chuck used to say: "When you don't know what is going on – you need to fall back on what you do know."

2 So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!"

Jonathan seems to be completely unaware of this second contract Saul has put on David's life –

A) David Challenges his reasoning

3 Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the Lord lives and as

your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."

B) Difficult Seasons we have to step back and discern what is real from what is only imagined.

1) What is truth

C) David says to Jonathan - here is the truth – there is only one step between me and death

D) At this point Jonathan sees David's despair and he pivots- willing to face reality

<sup>4</sup> So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do *it* for you."

E) Notice at this point – Jonathan quits trying to convince David that he is imagining all of this

1) But instead says – Whatever you need – I am here.

**2<sup>nd</sup> point: Difficult seasons call for Dependable friends**

A) Difficult seasons are not meant to be walked through alone.

B) Beauty of the Body of Christ – We all need friends who will stand with us. WALK WITH US!!

C) Definition of a Friend – a friend is one who runs in when the whole world is running out

D) That is what you need in difficult seasons –

1) In Difficult seasons – you find who your friends really are.

Seeking truth David devises a Plan – that will reveal what are King Saul's heart and true intentions

<sup>5</sup> And David said to Jonathan, "Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat.

A) A new moon was what they called the beginning of every Jewish month.

B) According to Leviticus, when you'd have a new moon, it was a civil holiday and a spiritual holiday.

C) and some months, they would have 2-3 days of feasting – this was one of those times

Now, if you worked for the king, like David did you were expected to be at the feast.

A) to show your loyalty and support to the king.  
David knew that.

B) But here David says V.5 But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third *day* at evening. <sup>6</sup> If your father misses me at all, then say, ‘David earnestly asked *permission* of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for *there is* a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.’

<sup>7</sup> If he says thus: ‘*It is well*,’ your servant will be safe. But if he is very angry, be sure that evil is determined by him. <sup>8</sup> Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. Nevertheless, if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?”

<sup>9</sup> But Jonathan said, “Far be it from you! For if I knew certainly that evil was determined by my father to come upon you, then would I not tell you?” You can trust me bro

<sup>10</sup> Then David said to Jonathan, “Who will tell me, or what *if* your father answers you roughly?”

<sup>11</sup> And Jonathan said to David, “Come, let us go out into the field.” So both of them went out into the field. <sup>12</sup> Then Jonathan said to David: “The LORD God of Israel *is witness!* When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, *or* the third *day*, and indeed *there is* good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you, <sup>13</sup> may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father *to do* you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father. – When God puts you in the position as King- God picked my Dad – He is picking you.

<sup>14</sup> And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; <sup>15</sup> but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”

<sup>16</sup> So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, “Let the LORD require *it* at the hand of David’s enemies.”

#### Renewing their Covenant

A) In that day, when one royal house replaced another,

B) it was common for the new royal house to kill all the potential threats from the old royal house.

C) Jonathan knew that one day, David and his descendants would rule over Israel,

D) And he wants David to promise that David will not kill or mistreat the descendants of Jonathan.

1) So they make this Covenant w/ each other

<sup>17</sup> Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul

V.17 – He loved him as he loved his own soul.

➤ CSB 17 Jonathan once again swore to David in his love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

Jesus declared that all of the commands of God were summed up in these two –

A) Love God with all heart soul mind and strength

B) Love your neighbor as yourself!

C) Jonathan is a great example of that 2<sup>nd</sup> command – putting his friends needs above his own

D) So Jonathan agreed to care for David in the face of Saul’s threat,

1) and David agreed to care for Jonathan and his family in the future VERSE 18

<sup>18</sup> Then Jonathan said to David, “Tomorrow *is* the New Moon; and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. <sup>19</sup> And *when* you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel.

Note that line and when you have stayed 3 days – then go down to the hiding place

A) Most scholars believe that David did go down to his family – they weren’t lying

B) And after three days he would return to the appointed spot by the stone of Ezel to wait for the word from Jonathan

C) That was the plan – David wasn’t asking his friend to lie V.20 Jonathan continues after the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

<sup>20</sup> Then I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target; <sup>21</sup> and there I will send a lad, *saying*, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I expressly say to the lad, ‘Look, the arrows *are* on this side of you; get

them and come’—then, as the LORD lives, *there is* safety for you and no harm. <sup>22</sup> But if I say thus to the young man, ‘Look, the arrows *are* beyond you’—that means go your way, for the LORD has sent you away. <sup>23</sup> And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the LORD *be* between you and me forever.”

So that was the plan – brings us to our -

**3<sup>rd</sup> point: Difficult seasons call for Deep faith**

A)David is going to have to wait on the Lord – Deep faith in the Lord and in his friend.

B)Isn’t the hardest Seasons in life the one’s where you can’t do anything but wait and trust?

C)Lord I don’t know how all of this is going to play out – but I am waiting on you and trusting in you –

D)You have my best interest at heart. –

1)That can be so hard for us. – Also so good for us

E)Isaiah 40:31 <sup>31</sup>But those who wait on the LORD  
Shall renew *their* strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.

So that was the plan

Now for the sake of time summarize what Happens next

A)The feast of the new moon arrived – Saul is sitting at the table – notices that David seat was missing

B)But he didn’t think much of it that day – thought he was perhaps sick of ceremonially unclean

C)But when David’s seat is vacant the 2<sup>nd</sup> day – King Saul asked his son Jonathan where is David

D)Jonathan tells his dad that David asked permission to spend the Holiday with his family and I gave it to him

Saul flies off the Rails – basically calls Jonathan the Son of whore – and an idiot

A)Because Jonathan doesn’t realize – David is going to steal his Crown from him

B)And to top it off Saul point blank says in front of everyone –

1)Bring David to me at once that he may die

C)And when Jonathan questions his father’s reasoning

1)Saul picks up a spear and throws it at Jonathan - trying to kill him too.

<sup>34</sup> So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully.

D)The Next day Jonathan is going to send word to David where he is going to be waiting at the stone of Ezel

**The Stone of Ezel = the stone that shows the way or the Stone of Destiny**

A)David was to wait by this stone

B)The direction of his life for the next 13 years is going to be revealed at this stone

C)This brings us to part 2 of our message

In Difficult seasons we ALSO HAVE a Stone of Ezel to Hide in.

A)For every Christians in every circumstance of life we have a Stone of Ezel –

B)a stone that shows the way -A Stone of Destiny

C)Daniel 2:34 tells us that it is a stone “*cut out without hands*”

1))1 Peter 2:4 Peter calls it “*a living stone*”

D)Isaiah 28:16 Isaiah calls it “*a foundation stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation*”

**E)Jesus Christ is our stone of Ezel**

He is the one we are called to rest in – seek refuge in.

A)He is the One that shows the way of Destiny for our lives

B)This is what we learn about Jesus our stone of Ezel

**C)Jesus Our Stone of Ezel is:**

➤ **A Place of Trust**

➤ **A Place of Transition**

➤ **A Place of Testimony**

## A Place of Trust

RP “Jesus is our stone of destiny rooted in a rugged hillside outside of the city of Jerusalem. There we understand that he bore our burden / he is the great burden bearer – the pressure of the burdens we face no matter what they may be are rolled away when we bring them & leave them at his feet .

The Cross/ Resurrection reveals the credentials of Jesus to be our stone of Ezel

A)Paul would say in the book of Romans ch.8 – You know how you can know God cares for you

B)He is going to take care of you? Because He has already given you his very best in his son.

1)Freely give you all things

Are you in a predicament, a Decision is out of your hands?

A)Nothing you can do but wait and trust God – Do what David did and wait at the stone of Destiny.

B)That is a hard place to be in but it is also a good place to be in – Your very fate is in the hands of the Lord.

## C)But You have to daily resist the temptation to RUN or take matters into your own hands

1)Say - Jesus I will trust you and I will wait on you. I believe that I can trust you.

## So Jesus Our Stone of Ezel is:

- A Place of trust
- A Place of transition

<sup>35</sup> And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad *was* with him. <sup>36</sup> Then he said to his lad, “Now run, find the arrows which I shoot.” As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. <sup>37</sup> When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, “*Is* not the arrow beyond you?” <sup>38</sup> And Jonathan cried out after the lad, “Make haste, hurry, do not delay!” So Jonathan’s lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master. <sup>39</sup> But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter. <sup>40</sup> Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, “Go, carry *them* to the city.”

Now Picture David waiting at the stone of Ezel

A)From a distance he hears his friend coming out to him

B)Jonathan, as if he is at target practice takes an arrow and shoots it

1)David anxiously watches its flight as it arches over him & lands beyond him.

C)Imagine his feelings at that moment..... He knew it meant the Lord was sending him away/

1)Such a small thing – the flight of a single arrow – told David his whole Life would be forever changed.

D)He would no longer be welcome at the palace.

1)He would no longer be welcome among the army of Israel.

E)He would no longer be able to go home to see his wife of his family.

David now knew he would have to live as a fugitive,  
A)He would live on the run from an angry, jealous king determined to destroy him

B)As the arrows were fired and hit their mark-if David didn’t know it at that moment

1)he would realize eventually Those arrows were not just from the hand of Jonathan –

C)they were from the hand of God.

D)Jonathan was the instrument –

1)but the arrows were from the hand of God and they were right on target.

What would ensue in David’s life would be a 13 year trial – living on the run –

A)fugitive – his reputation smeared

B)David knew- that God knew the truth about him.

1)God knew his heart

C)There was Nothing he could do but trust God –

## The next 13 years would be the means through which God would be forming David into A man of God.

A)Further making him a man after God’s... heart

B)The next 13 yrs would be God’s way of making David

1)into the greatest King that Israel would ever have until Jesus showed up

C)So the arrows fall Jonathan's servant scoops them up and Jonathan tells him to take them back into the city

<sup>41</sup> As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so.

<sup>42</sup> Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.' " So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

**In this transition time God was going to remove all of the crutches in David's life**

A)The Crutch of his friend Jonathan – the Crutch of family –

B)the Crutch of stability – place to live –  
1)the crutch of prestige among the people

C)Transition times are often times where our crutches get taken away.

Crutches have a way of keeping our focus horizontal

A)focus on the people and things around us – instead of the God above us.

B)Crutches bring temporary relief – Make us feel safe to the danger around us

C)Crutches can paralyze the walk of faith – Leaning on others and other things instead of God

D)Jesus would say to us – Trust in me alone –

God will use different instruments as arrows in our lives – at times to lead us into a time of transition

A)Sometimes it is the word of a friend speaking into our lives a word from the Lord.

B)It could be a Doctor's diagnosis – A word of an employer – those are the arrows

C)But Behind that arrow is God's loving purpose for your life

For David to become the Man that God wanted him to be he would have to embrace this

A)Lean into this time of transition

B)He had to accept that this was the road that God had chosen for him.

The Chapter ends w/ these words concerning David - *So he arose and departed:*

A)David will not return to "normal life" until Saul is dead and David is king.

B)This is a pretty bleak road for David to walk, but it is *God's* road for him.

C)God will teach David to depend upon God alone.

1)Not himself, not Saul, not Jonathan, not anyone except God (Transition time )

Turn to John 12 beautiful picture of this in the life of Jesus

20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Note that – they came to worship – they came to see Jesus – Seeing Jesus is at the heart of all worship. – See him – touch him – and be touched by him.

22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. (1<sup>st</sup> time he says this – usually not time) Now is the time .- proceeds to show how he is going to be glorified – in his death. )

24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

Analogy from nature – the seed has to be buried to produce fruit -

**Guys this is the way of Jesus that he invites us into**

**A)Die to self – die to self-comfort – to become unseen**

**B)Die to self-promotion – so that others can be advanced.**

C)Choice – remain alone – protect yourself – live for self = NO FRUIT – NO SPIRITUAL IMPACT

D)Die to self – Live for Jesus – seek to be a blessing to others – MUCH FRUIT and honor from God.

E)That is the life that Jesus invites us into.

But notice what Jesus says next –

27 “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? What is happening here-Jesus is wrestling in his humanity with what is coming – Cross – Sin of the world – Separation

He is wrestling with this in his flesh –Humanity

A)But Notice how Jesus deals with this tension – V27b

But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name.”

**C)Here is the Key – We have to realize our purpose**

**We exist for to bring God Glory – so**

D)Jesus knew -I am here to bring Glory to my Father

1)That means death – that means Cross / Shame

E)That has to be our perspective – Choose God’s glory over my Comfort

1)God’s purpose over MY PLANS

There will be times and seasons where His glory means = my death.

A)Death to my plans – my hopes- my dreams – my comfort – So he can be glorified

B)Question is – will we be willing to lean into that.

**C)When we do here is the result – Jesus Our Stone of Ezel is: not just**

- **A Place of trust**
- **A Place of transition**
- **A Place of testimony**

**Testimony of God’s faithfulness**

A)God’s refining process

**GOD’S PERFECT PLAN**

B)David is going to look back on this time – realize how God used it to mold him –

1)refine him

C)This transition season – this season of trust is going to become a part of his testimony

We will see in the coming weeks – he didn’t do every thing right

A)There will be a time in this seasons where he runs to live with the enemy.

B)Time where he almost goes into battle – against the people of God.

C)Part of this season will be a time where David doesn’t Write a single Psalm – no songs coming

1)What are we going to do on Wednesdays? – Stick around – found out

D)But this will be a time where David learns to seek God like never before.

E)His testimony is recorded for us to learn from IN OUR TIMES OF TRANSITION

Now Before we go today – I want us to consider the statement David made in V.4 again

**A)The Phrase: there's a step between me and death.**

B)David was learning this truth that his life at all times was hanging by a thread.

Now, we typically don't think life that way.

A)Especially when we're young, we think we're invincible.

B)And we might carry that thought through into our middle age and even maybe into our older age.

C))Appointed Day of death for each one of us –

1)This is your day.

D)But the thing is, God hasn't told you when that appointment is.

1)You'll find out.



E)You'll wake up one day, and say oh, hi, God.

I guess today's the day

1)Are you ready for that Day? – Stand before God.

**So There's a step between you and death. But you know what? There's also a step between you and life.**

**A)There's a step between you and eternal life,**

**B)and that step if you haven't yet is to put your trust completely in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

C)And if you're walking the fence, and you're thinking, oh, I got time, I got time.

1)You might not have time

the Bible says that Tomorrow is promised to no man

**D)And to gamble with the certainty of your death in spiritual matters, the most important matters, 1)is the height of what it means to be a fool.**

E)Don't be a fool today – Choose Jesus