

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Blood Covenant

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Samuel 18-19, 2 Samuel 9:1-10

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
 - a) The Lord Jesus came in the flesh to make for us a blood covenant.
 - b) It's very important that we understand the blood covenant because most Christians are not living in victory.
 - i) They boast of victory and sing of victory, but their lives are not victorious.
 - ii) If you want to live up to the victory we profess and sing about, then you need to understand the blood covenant.
 - c) 1 Samuel 18:3
 - d) Today's message will present three things we need to understand about the blood covenant.

- 2) A BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE (1 SAMUEL 18:3)
 - a) We need to understand the blood covenant as a biblical principle.
 - b) 1 Samuel 18:3
 - i) Jonathan and David made a covenant.
 - ii) The word "covenant" comes from a root word meaning "to cut."
 - (1) It literally has the idea of a blood covenant.
 - (2) The Bible teaches that the life of the flesh is in the blood.
 - (3) The scar would often be called "the mark of the covenant."
 - (4) Those in covenant were called friends.
 - c) We use the word "friend" very loosely today, but "friend" in the Bible was a very significant word.
 - i) Abraham was in covenant with God and was called the friend of God.
 - (1) James 2:23
 - ii) There is a new attitude that comes for those who are in covenant with one another.
 - (1) The Bible calls this attitude "lovingkindness."
 - (a) Psalm 51:1
 - (b) Lovingkindness means that I will do you good, regardless, because we are in covenant together.
 - (i) We have made together a blood covenant.
 - (ii) This covenant is not only between the two who make the covenant, but it continues down to their heirs, their offspring.
 1. The children of those in covenant are a part of the covenant if they will ratify the covenant.
 - d) The blood covenant is the subject of the Bible.
 - i) The whole Bible is about the blood covenant.
 - (1) The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - (a) The word "testament" and the word "covenant" are the same word.
 - e) The blood covenant is the secret of blessing.
 - i) All of the promises in the Bible are covenant promises.
 - ii) Psalm 25:14
 - iii) Luke 22:20

- (1) When we come to the Lord's table (in observance of the Lord's Supper), we are celebrating the blood covenant.
 - f) The blood covenant is the source of boldness.
 - i) When we understand the blood covenant and who we are and what we have in Christ, we will no longer live under the tyranny of our emotions.
 - ii) We can stand with boldness with the blood covenant.
 - g) The Bible provides us with symbols of the covenant:
 - i) 1 Samuel 18:1-4
 - (1) The phrase "made a covenant" in verse three literally means "cut a covenant."
 - (2) Saul is the king, and Jonathan is the king's son.
 - (a) Jonathan is heir to the throne.
 - (3) Jonathan loves and admires David, and he knows that David is God's anointed and appointed king.
 - (a) Jonathan knows that David is the rightful heir to the throne.
 - (4) Jonathan wants to yield his life to David, and he makes a blood covenant with David and symbolizes it.
 - ii) Jonathan gave David his robe, symbolizing his position.
 - (1) 1 Samuel 18:4
 - (2) By giving David his robe, Jonathan said that he was yielding his position over to David.
 - (a) This should be true of every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ with whom we are in blood covenant.
 - iii) Jonathan gave David his garments, symbolizing his possessions.
 - (1) 1 Samuel 18:4
 - (2) By this act, Jonathan said that all he had belonged to David.
 - iv) Jonathan gave David his sword and his bow and his girdle, symbolizing his power.
 - (1) His girdle was what he hung his weapons on.
 - (2) By doing so, Jonathan said that he no longer had any right to self-defense and that David's battles were his battles.
 - h) Covenant and commitment go hand-in-hand.
- 3) A STEADFAST PROMISE (1 SAMUEL 19:1-2)
- a) It is an unbreakable covenant.
 - b) 1 Samuel 19:1-2
 - i) At first, King Saul loved David, but Saul became insane with jealousy when David received so much praise.
 - ii) King Saul issues a royal edict that David is to be killed.
 - iii) Jonathan warns David and tells him to hide.
 - (1) Jonathan is in a closer relationship to David than he is to his natural father, just as we are closer many times to our brothers and sisters in Christ than we are with our natural family members.
 - iv) The emphasis of the kingdom is to find David and kill David.

- c) 1 Samuel 31 – 2 Samuel 9
 - i) Saul and Jonathan were both killed in battle.
 - ii) David, who is God's anointed, now comes to the kingdom and is appointed king,
 - (1) There is blind panic in the kingdom, for up until this point, everyone was saying, "Find David, kill David."
 - (2) Now, everyone is wondering when David will take vengeance on his enemies.
 - iii) A nurse in the royal nursery chamber takes the baby son of Jonathan, named Mephibosheth, and flees with him to hide the baby.
 - (1) The nurse trips and falls on the baby.
 - (2) Mephibosheth is crippled in the fall.
 - iv) Wanting to hide the baby from the vengeance of David, the nurse takes Mephibosheth to Lodebar.
 - (1) Lodebar literally means "a place of no pasture."
 - v) Mephibosheth grows up in exile, being taught to fear and hate David.
- d) David, who is now king, knows that he must fulfill the covenant he made with Jonathan.
 - i) 2 Samuel 9:1-3
 - (1) David wants to show the kindness of God to Mephibosheth, even though he has never met Mephibosheth, because he is in covenant with Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan.
- e) Mephibosheth must have trembled with fear when he was brought before David.
- f) 2 Samuel 9:7-8
 - i) David wanted to restore Mephibosheth's inheritance.
 - (1) David wanted Mephibosheth to be like his own son.
 - ii) David's kindness to Mephibosheth was not because of Mephibosheth's worthiness or even for his sake, but because of David's covenant with Jonathan.
- g) Mephibosheth has a decision to make.
 - i) Up until this point, Mephibosheth has seen David as an enemy and a threat.
 - (1) He has been running from David.
 - ii) Mephibosheth can choose to ratify the covenant.
 - (1) David will then no longer be an enemy but a friend.
 - (2) No longer is he out of fellowship with David; he's in fellowship with David.
 - (3) No longer is he running from David; he is running to David.
- h) Mephibosheth must change his mind about David, and he must accept the covenant by faith.
 - i) These are the terms of salvation in the New Testament: repentance and faith.
 - (1) Repentance means "a change of mind."

- (a) When we change our minds, we take a new King into our lives, and His name is Jesus.
 - i) Mephibosheth ratified the covenant, and then a transformation took place.
 - i) 2 Samuel 9:9-10
 - ii) One day, Mephibosheth is living in Lodebar, dry and dusty on the backside of nowhere, dragging his crippled limbs behind him.
 - iii) The next day, he awakens in the palace with servants attending him.
 - (1) He is now a king's son.
 - j) Luke 22:20
- 4) THE SAVING POWER OF THE BLOOD COVENANT
- a) God was made flesh that there might be a blood covenant with us.
 - b) The Savior is pictured.
 - i) Jesus entered into a blood covenant with God the Father for the sons and daughters of Adam.
 - ii) On the cross, a blood covenant was made.
 - (1) God and man were on that cross.
 - (2) The blood of God and the blood of man were mingled on the cross.
 - (a) The blood of God was Jesus' blood when He was on the Earth.
 - iii) Acts 20:28
 - (1) The blood that coursed through the baby Jesus was the blood of God.
 - (a) He was the virgin-born Son of God.
 - iv) Jesus was man, also.
 - (1) He called Himself the Son of Man.
 - (2) Jesus was fully human as if He were not God at all, and He was fully God as if He were not human at all.
 - v) The blood of God and the blood of a human were mingled upon the cross.
 - c) The sinner is pictured.
 - i) Mephibosheth pictures us.
 - ii) Mephibosheth was deformed.
 - (1) He was crippled by a fall.
 - (a) We are all crippled by the fall.
 - (i) When Adam fell, we fell with him.
 - (2) Mephibosheth was so crippled that he could not come on his own.
 - (a) He had to be found.
 - (b) He had to be sought.
 - (c) He had to be brought.
 - (d) He had to be taught.
 - (i) The same is true for all of us.
 - 1. God sought us just as David sought Mephibosheth.
 - iii) Mephibosheth was dethroned.
 - (1) He was heir to a kingdom, but he'd lost his kingdom.
 - (2) God created man to rule and to reign here upon the Earth, but we lost our inheritance.

- iv) Mephibosheth was dead.
 - (1) He was as good as dead; the sentence of death was upon him.
 - (a) 2 Samuel 9:8
 - (2) Without Jesus, we are as good as dead.
 - (a) Romans 6:23
 - (b) Ezekiel 18:20
 - v) Mephibosheth was deceived.
 - (1) He feared and hated David.
 - (a) He thought David was his enemy when, in fact, David was actually his friend.
 - (b) Mephibosheth was in ignorance and didn't understand the blood covenant.
 - d) Salvation is pictured.
 - i) Our salvation is because of what Jesus did.
 - ii) 2 Samuel 9:1
 - (1) Ephesians 4:32
 - (a) We are not worthy, we're under the sentence of death, we fear God, we hate God, but God is in a covenant with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; and God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us.
 - (i) It's not a matter of our worthiness.
 - iii) Mephibosheth has the king's forgiveness.
 - iv) Mephibosheth has a fortune restored.
 - v) Mephibosheth has the king's fellowship.
 - (1) Four times in 2 Samuel 9, David told Mephibosheth that he wanted him to sit at his table.
 - (a) When we eat at the Lord's table, we come to fellowship with a friend.
 - (b) To eat with a person is the most intimate fellowship we can have.
 - (2) 2 Samuel 9:7
 - (a) We can have continual and intimate fellowship with the King, and we have the King's fortune.
 - vi) We are in the King's family.
 - (1) To David, Mephibosheth was like one of his own sons.
 - (2) 1 John 3:1
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) The devil will often tell us that we are not worthy.
 - i) The truth is that we are not worthy.
 - ii) Just point him to the blood covenant and back out of the argument.
 - (1) Let him take up his argument with Almighty God and the blood covenant.
 - b) We all fail, but we can go to God with the blood covenant.
 - i) Psalm 51:1
 - c) When we are in the blood covenant:

- i) We enjoy the fellowship of His person.
- ii) We share the wealth of His possessions.
- iii) We rest in the shadow of His protection.
- d) Jesus came to Earth to shed His blood to make a blood covenant that we might enjoy what we have with our Lord.
- e) When Mephibosheth was faced with the love of God, he had to believe and ratify the covenant.
 - i) He had to take David as his king.
 - ii) He had to yield to David.
- f) Are you willing to yield to the Lord Jesus?
 - i) This is called repentance and faith.
 - (1) Repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.
- 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