

# Love for the Lord's Anointed: David and Jonathan, David and Saul, David and Michal

I've long been fascinated by the David-Jonathan relationship, but this is the first time I've looked at the back half of 1 Samuel closely. I'm even more fascinated now and have been amazed by how applicable these chapters are to us.

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Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible: NIV*

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
1	<p>But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel!”</p> <p>As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you.</p> <p><sup>16:1</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” <sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”</p> <p>“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”</p> <p>Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”</p> <p><sup>12</sup> So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.</p> <p>Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”</p> <p><sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.</p>	1 Sam 15:26-28, 16:1, 10-13	<p>Today's verses mark the start of an in-between period in Israel's history. God has rejected Saul as king over Israel and has chosen another. David is the Lord's anointed but he is not yet wearing a visible crown.</p> <p>For the next two weeks we are going to be looking at interactions between David and Saul, Jonathan and Michal in this in-between period. As we see what it meant for Saul, Jonathan and Michal to love (or hate!) David, the anointed king of Israel, we'll have the opportunity to reflect on what it means for us to love the anointed king of all the world – Jesus.</p>	<p>Lord, as we read about David, Israel's anointed king, and the way that Jonathan, Saul and Michal responded to him, show us what it means for us to love our anointed king, Jesus. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
2	<p><sup>55</sup> As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is that young man?"</p> <p>Abner replied, "As surely as you live, Your Majesty, I don't know."</p> <p><sup>56</sup> The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is."</p> <p><sup>57</sup> As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine's head.</p> <p><sup>58</sup> "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him.</p> <p>David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."</p> <p><sup>1</sup> After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. <sup>2</sup> From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family.</p>	1 Sam 17:55-18:2	<p>Jonathan was no pushover. He was Saul's son, Israel's prince and next in line to the throne. Back in chapter 14, he led an attack on a Philistine garrison, demonstrating an innate leadership ability. He's an initiative taker, a strategic thinker. He has the ability to gather a crowd, inspire them and lead them in battle. He has more kingly potential than his father ever did and we have to assume that he imagined himself as Israel's future ruler.</p> <p>So how would Jonathan have felt when Saul brought David – fresh from defeating Goliath – into the family home?</p> <p>If I was in Jonathan's position, I can imagine feeling threatened by David, perhaps jealous, resentful of his presence and certainly suspicious of his motives.</p> <p><b>Is that how Jonathan feels?</b></p> <p><b>What do you think it means that Jonathan became "one in spirit with David" and loved him as himself?</b></p> <p><b>Why does he feel like that?</b></p>	<p>Dear Father,</p> <p>May we follow Jonathan's example and not feel threatened by or jealous of those God has placed over us.</p> <p>Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

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3	<p><sup>1</sup>After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. <sup>2</sup>From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. <sup>3</sup>And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup>Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.</p>	1 Sam 18:1-4	<p>In recent years there have been many questions raised about the nature of David and Jonathan's friendship. Did they love like brothers or was it something else?</p> <p>Jonathan's actions in verse 4 are key to understanding their relationship. In taking off his robe, tunic, sword, bow and belt, Jonathan is renouncing his right to the throne, and acknowledging David as Israel's future king – and his own king. The Hebrew word translated here as “love” suggests political allegiance as much as emotional attachment. Perhaps Jonathan knew of Samuel's prophecy or perhaps it was his defeat of Goliath, but Jonathan knew that David was God's anointed king. From this point he became bonded in spirit to David. They made a covenant – a treaty. Jonathan would put David's good ahead of his own from here.</p> <p>For Jonathan, love for the Lord's anointed meant handing over his crown to another. He did this willingly, rearranging his priorities and dreams so that God's king could reign.</p> <p><b>How does loving the Lord's anointed affect your life?</b></p> <p><b>How are you going taking off your crown and giving it to Jesus?</b></p>	<p>Dear Father, give us such a love for Jesus that we will eagerly rearrange our own dreams so that he can reign in our lives and in the world. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
4	<p><sup>6</sup>When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. <sup>7</sup>As they danced, they sang:</p> <p>“Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”</p> <p><sup>8</sup>Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?”</p> <p><sup>9</sup>And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.</p> <p><sup>10</sup>The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand <sup>11</sup>and he hurled it, saying to himself, “I’ll pin David to the wall.” But David eluded him twice.</p>	1 Sam 18:6-11	<p>Saul might have stood a head higher than other men in Israel (1 Sam 9:2) but here we see here that he is not a big man. He looks very small here, burning with angry jealousy as the women sang in praise of young David.</p> <p>Three chapters before this (1 Sam 15:28), the Lord rejected Saul as king of Israel.</p> <p>Like Jonathan, Saul can see the writing on the wall: David will be king. But Saul’s response to this is quite different to Jonathan’s.</p> <p><b>How did Saul respond to the Lord’s anointed?</b> <b>What ought Saul to have done?</b></p>	<p>Dear Father. It is futility for us to try to hang on to power when you have declared Jesus to be king. May we do what Saul ought to have done and surrender all to your anointed. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
5	<p><sup>12</sup> Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul. <sup>13</sup> So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. <sup>14</sup> In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. <sup>15</sup> When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. <sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.</p> <p><sup>17</sup> Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord." For Saul said to himself, "I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!"</p> <p><sup>18</sup> But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?" <sup>19</sup> So when the time came for Merab, Saul's daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.</p>	1 Sam 18:12-19	<p>By this point in the story, Saul is looking very small. We're told twice in these verses that he is afraid of David. The great king of Israel is afraid of a young man from an insignificant family who has so little money that he can't raise the funds he needs to marry! (Marriage, in those days, involved an exchange of gifts. The woman would come with a dowry and the groom would give gifts to the bride's family.)</p> <p>It is a strange paradox, but holding on to your own power and refusing to bend your knee to God's king actually makes you weaker. Saul's stubborn refusal to acknowledge David as the Lord's anointed made him into a fear driven, insecure, ineffective king.</p> <p>Real strength is found in leaning on the one who has real power. Petty plotting won't be necessary if we trust that the future will roll out according to the unshakeable promises of God.</p>	<p>Dear Father, may we find our strength and courage in trusting your unshakeable promise that Jesus will be Lord over all. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
6	<p><sup>20</sup> Now Saul's daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased. <sup>21</sup> "I will give her to him," he thought, "so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." So Saul said to David, "Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law."</p> <p><sup>22</sup> Then Saul ordered his attendants: "Speak to David privately and say, 'Look, the king likes you, and his attendants all love you; now become his son-in-law.'"</p> <p><sup>23</sup> They repeated these words to David. But David said, "Do you think it is a small matter to become the king's son-in-law? I'm only a poor man and little known."</p> <p><sup>24</sup> When Saul's servants told him what David had said, <sup>25</sup> Saul replied, "Say to David, 'The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.'" Saul's plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.</p> <p><sup>26</sup> When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed, <sup>27</sup> David took his men with him and went out and killed two hundred Philistines and brought back their foreskins. They counted out the full number to the king so that David might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.</p> <p><sup>28</sup> When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, <sup>29</sup> Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days.</p>	1 Sam 18:20-29	<p>In these verses, David has a second opportunity to become the King's son in law – this time via Michal. David resists until he understands that the bride price is one he can pay: a hundred Philistine foreskins! Saul, of course, is hoping that David will fall at the hands of the Philistines. But David, in God's strength, is victorious and delivers the foreskins to Saul. Two hundred for good measure!</p> <p>Saul's fear of David is causing him to act quite illogically at this point. Saul knows that God is with David. He has been with him in every battle so far – why would it be any different in this quest for Philistine foreskins? And Michal loves David. Does Saul think that the daughterly love she feels for him will trump the wifely loyalty she will feel towards David? Like the plans of all who plot against the Lord's anointed, this one will fail.</p>	<p>Lord, when we see people plotting against you, give us the peace that comes from knowing that they will ultimately fail. You have set your king on his throne and he will rule. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
7	<p>Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David <sup>2</sup> and warned him, “My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. <sup>3</sup> I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I’ll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out.”</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. <sup>5</sup> He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?”</p> <p><sup>6</sup> Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: “As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be put to death.”</p> <p><sup>7</sup> So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.</p>	1 Sam 19:1-7	<p>What does it mean for us to love the Lord’s anointed when those around us don’t?</p> <p>This was a very real question for Jonathan. Saul made no secret of his hate for David, instructing his son and all of his attendants to kill him. Jonathan took the risk of speaking up for David. He bravely and respectfully argued that it would be wrong to put David to death. Saul was able to see reason and David remained safe for the time.</p> <p>Speaking up for our anointed king in a world that is against him requires courage, thought and much prayer. It will not always end well for us as it did here for Jonathan, but as Jesus said, <i>“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.”</i> (Matthew 10:37)</p> <p><b>In what situations do you find it hardest to speak up for Jesus? What is it about those situations that makes it hard?</b></p>	<p>Father, give us courage to speak up for Jesus. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
8	<p><sup>8</sup> Once more war broke out, and David went out and fought the Philistines. He struck them with such force that they fled before him.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> But an evil spirit from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the lyre, <sup>10</sup> Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed." <sup>12</sup> So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped. <sup>13</sup> Then Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, "He is ill."</p> <p><sup>15</sup> Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, "Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him." <sup>16</sup> But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats' hair.</p> <p><sup>17</sup> Saul said to Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?"</p> <p>Michal told him, "He said to me, 'Let me get away. Why should I kill you?'"</p>	1 Sam 19:11-17	<p>David's safety in Saul's household is very short-lived!</p> <p>Once again, war breaks out with the Philistines. Once again, David goes out to fight Saul's battles. Once again, David is victorious, and once again, Saul is filled with an uncontrollable jealous rage.</p> <p>This time it is Saul's daughter, Michal, David's wife, who saves David. Saul arranged their marriage that she might prove a snare for David, but Michal loved David and so was loyal to him over her father. Like all the plans of the ungodly, this one was doomed to fail.</p> <p>As Hannah said in the early chapters of 1 Samuel:</p> <p><i>"It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; ... He will give strength to his king."</i> 1 Sam 2:9-10</p> <p><b>Saul is looking quite broken at this stage. What ought he do?</b></p> <p><b>Is there a difference between how Jonathan stood up for David and how Michal did?</b></p>	<p>Father, give us a love and allegiance for Jesus greater even than the love we have for our family. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
9	<p>Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to kill me?"</p> <p><sup>2</sup> "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without letting me know. Why would he hide this from me? It isn't so!"</p> <p><sup>3</sup> But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the Lord lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."</p>	1 Sam 20:1-4	<p>In the verses between today and yesterday's passages, Saul has continued trying – unsuccessfully – to kill David. David has now caught up again with Jonathan and is frustrated and more desperate than we've seen him yet. He rightly guesses that Saul knows that Jonathan is on David's side.</p> <p><b>Notice the blank cheque promise that Jonathan makes to David in verse 4. Have you ever made such a promise to God? What might it involve for Jonathan? What might such a promise mean for us?</b></p>	<p>Lord Jesus, we know that you are king of the world. We are your servants. Use us in any way you choose to speed the day when all will acknowledge you. Amen.</p>
10	<p><sup>12</sup> Then Jonathan said to David, "I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, that I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? <sup>13</sup> But if my father intends to harm you, may the Lord deal with Jonathan, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away in peace. May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father. <sup>14</sup> But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord's kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, <sup>15</sup> and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth."</p> <p><sup>16</sup> So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the Lord call David's enemies to account." <sup>17</sup> And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.</p>	1 Sam 20:12-17	<p>Jonathan is certain that David will indeed be king. David might see himself as just a step away from death (1 Sam 20:3), but Jonathan is sure that God will keep his promises. This is faith. Jonathan's faith in these verses (shown in begging for David's kindness in the future - at this time when David himself is vulnerable) reminds me of Rahab in Joshua 2 when she hides the spies and then begs them for kindness.</p> <p>May we have the faith that God's anointed king will reign over all the world and call all of his enemies account, so that we too will come to him now and show the kind of loyal love that Jonathan showed to his king.</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, strengthen our belief that you will reign over all the world and call everyone to account. In these in-between years when people do not acknowledge you, let us love you with the loyal allegiance and affection that Jonathan had for his king. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
11	<p><sup>30</sup> Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? <sup>31</sup> As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!"</p> <p><sup>32</sup> "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" Jonathan asked his father. <sup>33</sup> But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David.</p> <p><sup>34</sup> Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the feast he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David.</p>	1 Sam 20:30-34	<p>When Jonathan sounds out his father about David, things don't go well. Saul reminds him that David's existence is threatening his own kingly prospects and when Jonathan defends David, he almost cops a spear in the side!</p> <p>The last verse in this passage is telling. Jonathan is angry and grieved not because his father has tried to kill him, but because of Saul's "shameful treatment of David." Seeing the Lord's anointed mistreated is more personally grieving for Jonathan than being mistreated himself!</p> <p><b>When we are maligned for the sake of our anointed king, Jesus, where should our grief be?</b></p>	<p>Father, when we face persecution for the sake of Jesus, may it fill us with grief that our king is being dishonoured. Amen.</p>

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
12	<p><sup>41</sup> After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.</p> <p><sup>42</sup> Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.</p>	1 Sam 20:41-42	<p>In various dictatorships around the world, the people are called upon to “love” their leader. They are to express a loyalty and affection for him similar to what one might feel for a husband or father. But this love is rarely (if ever) returned.</p> <p>The kind of love that Jonathan had towards David wasn't like this. It was a two-sided love. Their relationship wasn't symmetrical – it was David who would be king – but notice David's love for Jonathan expressed here at their farewell: <i>Then they kissed each other and wept together – but David wept the most. (20:41)</i></p> <p>The great thing about loving the Lord's anointed is that the love is both ways. Jesus feels a deep affection for us – remember how he wept at Lazarus' tomb? We swear allegiance to him, but he shows even greater allegiance to us. It was while we were still sinners that he died for us (Rom 5:8). He promises to be with us always (Matt 28:20), and to work all things for our good (Rom 8:28).</p>	Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me. Amen.

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

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13	<p><sup>16</sup> And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. <sup>17</sup> "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." <sup>18</sup> The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.</p>	1 Sam 23:16-18	<p>How is it that we encourage one another? In these verses, David and Jonathan reunite briefly after an extended absence. Saul has been on David's trail for many months. In what turns out to be their last meeting, David is exhausted and discouraged but Jonathan helps him to "find strength in God". Notice how he does this. Jonathan reminds David of God's promises: "You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this."</p> <p>As we live through trying and exhausting times, the best encouragement that we can give to one another is the reassurance that God's plans will certainly be realised.</p> <p><b>How could you help a friend find strength in God today?</b></p>	Dear God, help us to encourage one another with the reassurance that your promises will be fulfilled. Amen.

# Love for the Lord's Anointed (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
14	<p><sup>24</sup> “Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.</p> <p><sup>25</sup> “How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights.</p> <p><sup>26</sup> I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.</p> <p><sup>27</sup> “How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!”</p>	2 Sam 1:24-27	<p>Saul and Jonathan are dead. David will be crowned king, but before his coronation, he sings this lament for them.</p> <p>Notice two things here: First, David holds no bitterness towards Saul. This man who made his life a misery for many years is dead, but David doesn't rejoice. He mourns the downfall of this once great man – Israel's first king.</p> <p>Second, notice David's words of lament for Jonathan. This could have been the first time David and Jonathan's friendship was spoken of publicly. While Saul was alive, the politics would not have allowed such declarations.</p> <p><i>I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.</i></p> <p>Jonathan was the one with the most to lose from David's ascension to the throne, yet he was the first to acknowledge David as king and David's most steadfast supporter through the tumultuous waiting period.</p> <p><b>Remembering that “love” means affection, loyalty and allegiance, think back over the passages we've looked at and list the ways that Jonathan has showed love for David.</b></p> <p><b>How can you show such love for your king, Jesus?</b></p>	<p>Lord Jesus, we long for the day when all will acknowledge you as king. As we wait for this, fill us with love for you. Convince us of the certainty of your reign. Give us a loyalty to you greater than the loyalty we feel towards our family members. Let us stand up for you in the midst of the world's hostility. So knit our hearts to yours that we will feel grief when you are shamefully treated and joy when you are honoured. Let us, like Jonathan, eagerly give up our personal ambitions in order to see you glorified. Amen.</p>