

# What Do You Seek?

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On January 13 of this year, ABC News in New York reported on New York Representative George Santos—who was recently elected to Congress—is facing a laundry list of allegations that he lied, virtually about everything in his life and his resume. What he lied about, both proven and some alleged, is about where he went to school. He admitted that he didn't attend the Universities that he claimed on his resumes and lied about where he worked. He claimed he worked at City Bank and Goldman Sacs but he never did and was finally caught in that and had to admit that. He lied about being Jewish. He repeatedly said in his campaign that he was a proud, American Jew but when people checked into his background, they found out that that was not the case. He backtracked by saying, "I'm Jew-ish". He lied to his donors. CNBC reported that members of Santos' staff impersonated the staff of now-speaker Kevin McCarthy, in order to go after wealthy donors and get contributions from wealthy donors who thought they were contributing to McCarthy when actually they were donating to Santos.

Santos' lawyer wouldn't answer CNBC's question about whether Santos knew of this deception. He also lied about his athletic accomplishments. Long Island GOP officials said that Santos told them that he was a star volleyball player at Baruch College on a full scholarship and that he had both of his knees replaced as a result of his athletic career. He has since acknowledged that he never attended Baruch and there is no evidence that his knees have been replaced. He lied about the timing of his mother's death. He said publicly that his mother died in the 9/11 attacks when in fact she died in 2016. Then this last Wednesday he was charged with thirteen federal accounts of fraud, money laundering, theft of public funds and false statements. Most all of his colleagues in the House and Senate, at one time or another, demanded that he resign. To date he has refused and recently filed paperwork to run for re-election.

Santos' examples show the lengths to which humans will go to obtain power and then retain power. It's not just Santos, the legacy of U.S. politicians is to say and do anything required to obtain office and then to keep office and to keep the power associated with the office. Let me give you some examples. In running for President in 2016, Hillary Clinton kept changing her answers and political positions in speeches depending on who she was talking to; who her audience was. CNN's Anderson Cooper noticed this and correctly called her out on it. He asked her, do you change your political identity based on who you are talking to? I remember hearing her answer on television. She said, "I have a range of views". Meaning, I will do what it takes to get elected. In addition to that, our former President who attempted to overturn the 2020 election—I'm not getting into the concern with the validity of such claim—but the fact is he attempted to overturn the election. One, I think, would be to avoid admitting defeat because a narcissist finds that hard to do. But most importantly it is to retain power. You do not want to give up the power that you have. To admit defeat and then lose that power is

something that human nature does not want to happen. Then our current President who announced this week that he is going to run for another term, which would make him 82 at the beginning of his Presidency, making him the oldest President ever. A commentator for the BBC noted this week that once you have experienced that power—meaning the power of the Presidency of the United States—you will not easily let it go. That is so true.

The only reason I bring up these examples, is not get into politics, but rather to show human nature and its faults and its tendencies that we as human beings are all subject to. As bad as U.S. politics is, it is much worse on the global stage. Since the start of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, MSN reported a couple of weeks ago that 39 high profile Russian figures who spoke out against the invasion have been assassinated by Putin. They laid it directly at Putin's feet as he bids to keep his grip on power. Even worse than that is, after ten years of Syrian civil war—if you have followed that over the last ten years—President Assad, the President of Assyria has murdered more than 350,000 of his fellow countrymen. This is according to the High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet of the U.N. human rights counsel. He has done that in order to retain the power of his family's 50 plus years of dictatorship. Anybody who starts a revolt or starts marching in the street has been dealt with very harshly. Then on top of that we have the civil war in Sudan where in 2019 people were marching in the streets demanding democracy. Two generals overthrew the existing dictator by promising democracy to the people. But after tasting power for two or three years, they are now fighting each other in a bloody civil war for control of the country and they have no regard for the people at all—none, zero.

Looking back at human history, kings, dictators, emperors, will do whatever it takes to get power and then to keep that power. It was even a problem in the early New Testament church. Let's go to 3 John 1:9 and see a man even in a local area who was concerned about power and would not respect authority. All of the verses will be out of the King James unless otherwise noted.

**3 John 1:9** *I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. (KJV)*

Diotrephes would not receive the apostle of God Almighty. It's interesting the Greek word *preeminence* is Strong's #5383; it has a very interesting definition. It means "to be fond of being first, that is ambitious of distinction"— of being at the top. He loves the *preeminence*. Going on in verse 10.

**10)** *Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. (KJV)*

This individual is seeking to have power over the people. He wanted to retain power over the people. He wanted to diminish the authority of the Apostle John. Then of course, for those of us who have a Worldwide Church of God background, back in the

'60's, '70's and '80's, there was great strife within the church, great infighting over rank, title, and recognition. There were arguments over who was going to be first Vice President, second Vice President and third Vice President for example. It happened on the Worldwide level and on the local level. Great emphasis on position, rank, title, who was in charge, who was in authority.

But it all goes back even further and we know that because that is exactly what Satan did. We won't turn there but in Isaiah 14:14, remember what Satan said? He said,

*I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.*

He wanted to be the God, he wanted to be all powerful, he wanted to be the Most High and he went to Yehovah's throne and tried to overthrow Him and as they say—*the rest is history*. But the Bible and history clearly show us that Satan's nature and human nature seek to exalt the self. Seek the preeminence, want to be in the spotlight. But our Father's way is just the opposite; exactly the opposite.

Today what we want to do is look at His Son's perfect example of how our Father wants us to live, not exalting the self. Then we're going to look at the examples of two men in the Bible whose lives were intertwined, that epitomized the Father's way of life. Then lastly, we're going to see that there is a big lesson that applies to all of us if we want to be in our Father's Kingdom.

The title of the sermon is:

### What Do You Seek?

What do you seek? What are you after? What are you looking for? What do you want? We'll cover that in four points.

#### **1. Let's look at the example of the Son of God; the very Son of God.**

Let's go to John 15:13 and compare His attitude to all of the individuals that I just mentioned in the introduction and see the difference and note the contrast. Jesus is speaking.

**John 15:13** *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* (KJV)

Are those who I mentioned in the introduction, laying down their lives for their constituents or their countrymen or even their friends? That's exactly what Jesus Christ did. Now let's go back to John 10:15. Christ's approach is just the opposite of what we find in the world today.

**John 10:15** *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.* (KJV)

He put the sheep ahead of Himself. He put the welfare of the sheep, ahead of His own welfare. Now let's notice what He said to the disciples in Luke 20, we're going to read verses 45-47. He's talking to the people but addressing His disciples; He's in the presence of the people.

**Luke 20:45** *Then in the audience of all the people he [referring to Jesus] said unto his disciples,*

*46) Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats [meaning the most prestigious] in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts;*

*47) Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation. (KJV)*

What He is saying is, "Don't seek power, don't seek recognition". Rather, let's notice what Paul says about Jesus Christ in Philippians 2:5. This comes up quite often in Pacific sermons, I think we all know it by heart.

**Philippians 2:5** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (KJV)*

Verse 6 I'll quote out of the New American Standard Bible—the Berean Literal Bible has the same translation.

*6) who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (NASB)*

The Greek word for *grasped* is Strong's #725 and it's the Greek word *harpagmos* and it means "the act of seizing". He said He did not consider equality with God something to be seized or to fight over or to grasp or to take for the self. In fact, Jesus Christ did exactly the opposite of what Satan attempted to do. Rather than competing with His Father for the preeminence, what did He do? He gave up being Spirit and became a physical human being for our benefit and for our good. Going on in verse 7 out of the NIV.

*7) rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (NIV)*

The Greek word for *servant* is *doulos* which literally means "a slave".

*8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! (NIV)*

So, we see out of love and out of humility, Jesus divested Himself of His godliness to become a human and then on top of that He lived a perfect life. Then on top of that He died for us that we might live forever. Everything that Jesus has done in the past and is

doing today, is a humble service to His Father and to His Father's children—all of us. Mark 10:44, Jesus is speaking to the twelve.

**Mark 10:44** *And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. 45) For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (KJV)*

Jesus Christ is indeed Chief and He indeed, is servant of all and we are to follow in His footsteps. He is obviously, as we know, subservient to His Father but when He walked this earth, He was chief and what did He do? He was a servant to all. Notice Matthew 23. We'll read verse 1 just to set the context and then read verses 10-12. He is speaking to the multitude but also to His disciples.

**Matthew 23:1** *Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples ... (KJV)*

*Continuing in verse 10).*

*10) Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.  
11) But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.  
12) And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. (KJV)*

What Christ did was set us the example of love and humility. He initiated the foot washing, an act of humility and of love. He set us an example throughout His entire life of love and of humility and not exalting Himself as the Son of God.

As we get towards the second point, let's look at the lives of two men in biblical history who epitomized this attitude that Jesus Christ had. Those two men are Jonathan and David. What we're going to do is examine their friendship because there is more to the story than meets the eye. In many ways, both Jonathan and David were a type of Jesus Christ in their willingness to put the other first and not themselves, as we will see.

## **2. Let's begin with Jonathan, the son of King Saul.**

What kind of man was Jonathan? What was his heart? What was his faith? What was his relationship with God Almighty. Let's start in 1 Samuel 13:1 and I'll read this first verse out of the NIV. The Complete Jewish Bible translates it the same way as does The New American Standard. If you have a King James or a New King James, you'll find this translation different than what you have here and I'll explain why.

**1 Samuel 13:1** *Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty- two years. (NIV)*

There's a problem with this verse as far as the manuscripts go because the numbers are missing in Hebrew. Some translations inserted numbers and some did not. The King James and the New King James say Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned

two years over Israel.... and then the account goes on. We don't have time to debate the various possibilities here but it seems to me the NIV has it just about right. Regardless of which translation is correct, Saul's son Jonathan was somewhere in his late teens or early 20's at the time of this occurrence that we're going to read about.

*2) Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.  
3) And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba ... (KJV)*

We see that Jonathan, at a very young age, was successfully commanding a 1000-man army. As I said, he was young, probably in his late teens or early 20's. But he must have been exceptionally skilled and mature to have that position. As we're going to see, he was inspiring the nation as a result of his exploits. Jonathan attacked the Philistines here and won that battle but it really ticked off the Philistines and caused them to come against Israel with a large army, which caused a great fear among the Israelites. As a result, Samuel tells Saul to wait for seven days—this is in verse 8—until Samuel can come and offer sacrifices. What happened was, Saul became scared because the army began to scatter and he offered his own sacrifices in place of Samuel, in verse 9. In verse 11 Samuel arrives on the scene and says, “what on earth have you done?” Of course, Saul offers a bunch of excuses, so let's pick up the account in verse 13.

*13) And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. [If you had obeyed.]  
14) But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.  
(KJV)*

Saul is now being informed that another man is going to be king. He does not know about the account with David at all, at this point. From Saul's standpoint, logically and traditionally, the one to replace him would be Jonathan. Jonathan was the Crown Prince. So, from Saul's perspective his kingdom would be passed to his son. Now let's go to 1 Samuel 14:1. I'm going to read this out of the New King James but let's notice Jonathan's faith and bravery in this account. We're trying to determine who this man is and what his character is like.

**1 Samuel 14:1** *Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, “Come, let us go over to the Philistines’ garrison that is on the other side.” But he did not tell his father. (NKJV)*

*Continuing in verse 6) ...*

*6) And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armor, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few. (KJV)*

We see some important facts about Jonathan. He knows victory comes from God Almighty, not from human beings and he shows deep personal faith in Yehovah and as we're going to see, very much bravery.

*7) And his armourbearer said unto him, do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart. (KJV)*

Jonathan now proceeds to decide if the Philistines tell him, "Wait there and we will come to you.", that's a bad sign, that he is not to go up and fight. But if they tell the two of them to "Come up to us", it means God is with them. Verse 12.

*12) And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. (KJV)*

Today we would say, "We'll teach you a thing or two, come on up here." Remember there's only two against a garrison of the Philistines.

*12 continued) ... And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.*

*13) And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.*

*14) And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, [twenty against two and we think they killed all of them] within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow. (KJV)*

In verse 15, Yehovah steps in to honor Jonathan's faith and his bravery. Let me read this out of the NIV.

*15) Then panic struck the whole army—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. [This is the whole Philistine army] It was a panic sent by God. (NIV)*

*Continuing in the beginning of verse 23) ...*

*23) So on that day the LORD saved Israel ... (NIV)*

And Yehovah used Jonathan to do that. But there's more to the story. Unknown to Jonathan, that day Saul called a fast among the army. He said anyone who eats this day will die. I don't understand that, it's probably not the brightest move on Saul's part because an army travels on its stomach and you're in a fight—to call a fast. It doesn't say he went to God and God told him to call a fast, he just called a fast. The fact is

though, his son Jonathan didn't know about it and he ate some honey. Verse 43 I'll read out of the Jewish Publication Society.

*43) Then Saul said to Jonathan, tell me what you have done and Jonathan told him and said, I certainly taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand. He says here am I and I will die. (JPS)*

He said "I'm ready to die because I violated your command." So, we see he's not afraid to die and is willing to obey his father even at the cost of his own life. Verse 44 we'll pick up out of the NIV.

*44) Saul said, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you do not die, Jonathan." [He says "You're a dead man."]*

*45) But the men said to Saul, "Should Jonathan die—he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the LORD lives, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he did this today with God's help." So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death. (NIV)*

It's clear that the soldiers were impressed with Jonathan's conduct, his leadership, his bravery and obvious to all—Jonathan was a man who trusted in Yehovah to give them the victory. He was a man of character, despite his relatively young age. His actions set an example for the entire nation. As we go through 1 Samuel 17, David faces Goliath, we know that story. We know Goliath was talking smack against Israel and David was absolutely incensed and said, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine who defies the armies of the living God? Why haven't we taken his head already?" King Saul sends for him in verse 33 and he calls David a youth. The Hebrew word for *youth* means "from an infant to an adolescent to a teenager". Saul is implying that David is too young to fight. By this time, when this event happens, Jonathan is already a general in the army and he's probably in his mid to late 20's, David being a teenager. David goes on to kill Goliath and Saul invites David to his court—not sending him back home to his father Jesse. Let's pick it up now in 1 Samuel 18 and I'll read verse 1 out of the NIV.

**1 Samuel 18:1** *After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. (NIV)*

Jonathan loved David as much as he loved his own life.

*Continuing verse 2 in the New King James Version.*

*2) Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.*

*3) Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.*

*4) And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt. (NKJV)*



Giving incredible honor to this young teenager. Let me read from Jameson, Faucet, and Brown's commentary about this incident.

*To receive any part of the dress which had been worn by a sovereign or by his eldest son and heir is deemed in the east the highest honor which can be conferred upon a subject.*

So, what Jonathan did was honor David as much as he possibly could. We know David goes on to be a mighty soldier and remember the people singing the song,

*Saul has slain his thousands; David has slain his tens of thousands.*

We know that Saul began to resent David and it culminates in Saul trying to kill David with a spear. Now let's go to 1 Samuel 19:1 and read this out of the New King James. We see that Jonathan intercedes on David's behalf, even against the wishes of his father.

**1 Samuel 19:1** *Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David [this is a command from the king]; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David.*

*2) So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore, please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide. (NKJV)*

Jonathan goes back to his father and gets him to change his mind. Then later on in the chapter, a demon influences Saul to kill David and therefore David had to flee. Chapter 20 now, we'll read verses 12-16. Jonathan secretly meets David while David is hiding.

**1 Samuel 20:12** *And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about tomorrow any time, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee; (KJV)*

*Continuing in the (NKJV)*

*13) 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.*

*14) And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; (NKJV)*

Notice verse 15 because it's going to come up later.

*15) 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."*

16) *So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "Let the LORD require it at the hand of David's enemies."*

17) *Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul. (NKJV)*

Here we see that Jonathan knew that David was going to be king rather than himself. Think about that. Instead of trying to ensure that David would be killed, so that one day he could be king, here he is trying to save David's life. Could you imagine a Vladimir Putin doing this? Or an Assad doing this? Or a U.S. politician doing this? Or a President of the United States doing this? All Jonathan asked is (*he understood he was not going to be king, but his beloved friend would be*) that David show kindness to himself and his family. That's all he asked. Then notice verse 30.

30) *Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?"*

31) *For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. [Jonathan knew that] Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die. [So that you can be king.]" (NKJV)*

So here he has his father behind him so to speak and he could have run with that and had David killed and he would have succeeded to the throne. But what did Jonathan do?

32) *And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?"*

33) *Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David. (NKJV)*

This incident speaks to Saul's very unstable mindset, probably demon influenced, trying to kill his own son, the very heir to his throne. So now Jonathan is risking his own life to save the life of David, the man who was going to replace him as the king of Israel. Not that he was king, but down the road. Verse 42.

42) *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.' "* (NKJV)

Jonathan again saves the very life of the man who will rule as king instead of him. Now let's go 1 Samuel 23:16-17. David is still in hiding. Again, out of the New King James.

**1 Samuel 23:16** *Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. (NKJV)*

God used Jonathan to strengthen David and he was encouraging him by calling on the name of God—Yehovah.

*17) And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. [I will be subordinate to you; by birthright I should be king but I'm going to be subordinate to you] (NKJV)*

What an incredible example from the Crown Prince of Israel. A man of bravery, courage, and faith, is willing to subordinate himself to and to save the life of the one Yehovah chose to replace him. He did it taking himself out of the picture. Instead of being David's enemy, he loved him as much as he loved himself and wanted to serve David instead of serving himself. Jonathan's conduct and attitude does not come from human nature. I think that's obvious. Human nature is not that way as we saw in the introduction. I believe Jonathan had the very mind of Jesus Christ because what did Christ do? For an eternity, Christ has willingly subject Himself to His Father in total unity and harmony and Jonathan had that exact same attitude.

Let's go to the third point.

### **3. Let's look at this whole incident, this historical episode from David's point of view.**

Was David selfish? Was he trying to advance his own cause? Even though he had been anointed king, was he seeking the throne at all costs? Was he going above and beyond trying to go after his enemies or those who might be a threat to him being king? Let's go to 2 Samuel 1, this is where Saul and Jonathan had both died in a battle with the Philistines. Apparently, there was a conscripted Amalekite soldier who was fighting for Saul and saw that Saul had died. What he did was stole the crown and bracelet off Saul's body and brought it to David and lied, saying he killed Saul. Clearly expecting some massive reward from David because now David would finally be king and he brings the good news and the crown and he was expecting a big reward. Let's begin in verse 10, out of the New King James.

***2 Samuel 1:10** So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."  
(NKJV)*

What did David do? Did he grab the crown and start yelling, "Finally I'm king, finally I don't have to go into hiding, finally I'm not on the run"? What did he do?

*11) Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him.*

*12) And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.*

13) *Then David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite."*

14) *So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"*

15) *Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died. (NKJV)*

Let's stop here and compare this to a hypothetical incident involving Vladimir Putin. What do you think—if a Ukrainian soldier murdered Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine, then skipped across the border and went and told Putin that he had killed Zelenskyy. What would be Putin's attitude? He would have parades through the main street of Moscow uplifting this guy because of what he had done. Notice in verse 17, I'll read this out of the New Living Translation. Notice what David did.

17) *Then David composed a funeral song for Saul and Jonathan ... (NLT)*

*Continuing in verse 23 out of the New King James.*

This is the funeral song that David composed.

23) *Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.*

24) *O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.*

25) *"How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places.*

26) *I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women.*

27) *"How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!" (NKJV)*

Instead of being elated now that his hiding was over and that he was finally king, David, rather, was heartbroken. Heartbroken not just for the death of Jonathan but for that of Saul—the very one who was trying to kill him. He was heartbroken over that out of respect of Yehovah's anointed king. In the ancient world, including Israel, the very first thing a new king often did was to wipe out the family of the previous king to ensure that he stays on the throne and nobody is there to challenge him on the throne. A biblical example—for sake of time we won't go through it, but you can find it in 2 Kings 10. Jehu became king of Israel and his first course of action was to wipe out the entire line of Ahab, the previous king. Ahab had 70 sons living in Samaria and Jehu wrote a letter to the people of Samaria saying "Kill all 70 or face the consequences." So, they killed all 70 of the offspring of Ahab and then they decapitated each one of them and dumped their heads by the city gate. That was common practice in those days. That being a common practice, what did David do when he became king? Did he wipe out the entire line of Saul? Remember that we read earlier, David promised to protect Jonathan's family. We read that in 1 Samuel 20:15, not to ever cut off kindness from Jonathan's

family. We know that is what David said before he became king. But once he became king what did David actually do? Did he wipe out the line of Saul to eliminate any future threat?

Jonathan had a disabled son who led an awful life—his name was Mephibosheth. Let's turn to 2 Samuel 4:4 out of the New King James, telling us a little bit about Jonathan's son.

*2 Samuel 4:4 Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. (NKJV)*

Why did she flee? Because the new king is coming on the throne and their lives are in jeopardy.

*4 continued) ... And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth. (NKJV)*

So instead of being king one day after Jonathan's days were over, since he was Jonathan's son—because Saul and Jonathan were now dead—he was forced to run for his life, dropped by his nurse breaking his feet so he couldn't walk. That was his lot in life when David came to the throne. Now let's go to 2 Samuel 9:3. We'll read verses 3-4 and then start in verse 6.

**2 Samuel 9:3** *And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? [What a concept.] And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.*

*4) And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar. (KJV)*

*Continuing in verse 6) ...*

*6) Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant! (KJV)*

Put yourself in Mephibosheth's situation—he doesn't know if he is going to live or die at this point.

*7) And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.*

*8) And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?*

*9) Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.*

*10) Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread always at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. (KJV)*

So instead of wiping out the line of the previous king—especially the king that was trying to kill him—David treated Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, just like his own son. When you think about it, Mephibosheth is a type of all of us before conversion. Here he was lame, he was helpless, there was a new king and his life is worthless and his life is in the new king's hands. Before we were converted, we had nothing, we deserved nothing, we were undeserving of any blessings. We were living under the threat of danger from the world that we lived in with no supernatural help or anything like that. We have gone from that, before our conversion, to where we are today with complete security from God Almighty and with royal treatment from God Almighty to the point that we can be at the table of the King of the universe forever. In that sense, Mephibosheth was symbolic of us being called and having a future at the feet of God Almighty—at His table.

When you think about it, what an incredible example David set. Instead of rejoicing when he became king, he mourned the loss of Jonathan and Saul. Instead of wiping out the line of Saul, to ensure that his throne would be safe so to speak, he adopted Jonathan's son as his very own. Think about that. Is it any wonder that David is going to be king of Israel? Any wonder at all, that in the Kingdom of our Father, he is going to be the king of Israel. I can't help but wonder if, in the Kingdom, Jonathan is going to be his righthand man. I think that would probably be the case and you and I will be there to see that, if we overcome and grow as we should.

The point is, neither Jonathan nor David was concerned about getting all that they could for themselves. They were not concerned about that. That was not their heart. Rather, their legacy was one of humility. Instead of promoting the self, both of them put the other first in their life. What a stark contrast to presidents, kings, dictators and congressmen today, where all they do is seek for the self.

Let's conclude now with one last point.

#### **4. What is the great lesson we can learn from this biblical example?**

There are many we could think of, but there is one big one. This is what it is: Love and humility are the keys to salvation. Love and humility are tied together because they epitomize the keeping of the two great commandments, putting our Father first and loving our neighbor as ourself. To put the Father before the self, we have to love Him with all our being, more than we love ourselves. With humility we put ourselves under our Father. We prostrate ourselves before our Father. We willingly submit to our Father because we realize who He is versus who we are.

In order to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves, we have to be humble to do that. That's what we find in Philippians 2:3. Let's turn there and we'll read this out of

the New King James. *To love our neighbor as ourself*, this is what we must do and Jonathan and David did that.

**Philippians 2:3** *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit ...*  
(NKJV)

In the introduction all we saw was selfish ambition and conceit.

*3 continued) ... but [rather] in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.* (NKJV)

That is necessary in order to love our neighbor. We see that love and humility are necessary to keep the two great commandments. They are necessary to achieve salvation. It is all really so simple. Let's go to 2 Corinthians 11:3 and see how simple it is. Paul is writing to this church that had so many problems and factions and divisions and is tolerating sin.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.* (KJV)

The Greek word for *simplicity* is Strong's #572 and is the Greek word *haplotes* and it means "singleness, that is subjectively sincerity without self-seeking". We would say "humble sincerity, not seeking for the self". That is exactly what Christ did in His life. He obeyed the two great commandments in His life. He put His Father's will first. Remember in the garden, He said,

*Can you take this cup from me, but nevertheless not what I will but what You will?*

Then He went on to offer Himself a sacrifice. He put His Father's will first—the first great commandment. Then the second great commandment, He loved His fellow man more than He loved Himself because He sacrificed Himself for His fellow man.

The key ingredients of obeying the two great commandments are love and humility. Love because we love our Father and His Son and we love our fellow man. Humility because we put our Father's will ahead of ours and we put our fellow man before our desires. We look after our fellow man. This whole episode of David and Jonathan epitomizes the keeping of the two great commandments. Because Jesus, David, and Jonathan set us this powerful example in their lives of both love and humility. So back to the title, so **what should we seek** as we go forward? What should be our goal? Should we follow in the footsteps of the emperors, dictators, politicians and congressmen and all of that—seek for the self, willing to say and do anything to achieve rank, authority, aggrandizement, position, place and honor? Or should we seek love and humility in allowing us to obey the two great commandments? So, let's use the very power of the Holy Spirit to achieve love and humility, thereby being in the Kingdom of God.