

Success and Its Sacrifices

Keys for this Series:

1. Success can be dangerous because of what it can do to you and to those around you.
2. Very few people handle success and failure equally well.

Success is the accomplishment of an aim or a purpose

The Consultation

¹Then 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?”
²“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!”
³But David took an oath and said, “Your father knows very well that I have found favour 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.”
⁴Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do for you.”
⁵So David said, “Look, tomorrow is the New Moon feast, and I am supposed to dine with the king; but let me go and hide in the field until the evening of the day after tomorrow. ⁶If your father misses me at all, tell him, ‘David earnestly asked my permission to hurry to Bethlehem, his hometown, because an annual sacrifice is being made there for his whole clan.’ ⁷If he says, ‘Very well,’ then your servant is safe. But if he loses his temper, you can be sure that he is determined to harm me. ⁸As for you, show kindness to your servant, for you have brought him into a covenant with you before the LORD. If I am guilty, then kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?”
⁹“Never!” Jonathan said. “If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn’t I tell you?”
¹⁰David asked, “Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?”
¹¹“Come,” Jonathan said, “let’s go out into the field.” So they went there together.” - 1 Samuel 20:1-11

A Successful Person...

- ...sees the situation clearly.
- ...stands alone in discernment.
- ...leads in the ongoing success

★ David realizes he will sacrifice his one true friend.

The Covenant

¹Then 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 favourably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? ¹³But 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. ¹⁴But show me unfailing kindness like the LORD’s kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, ¹⁵and 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.”
¹⁶So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD call David’s enemies to account.”
¹⁷And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself. ¹⁸Then Jonathan said to David, “Tomorrow is the New Moon feast. You will

be missed, because your seat will be empty. ¹⁹The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait by the stone Ezel. ²⁰I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I were shooting at a target. ²¹Then I will send a boy and say, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here,’ then come, because, as surely as the LORD lives, you are safe; there is no danger. ²²But if I say to the boy, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then you must go, because the LORD has sent you away. ²³And about the matter you and I discussed—remember, the LORD is witness between you and me forever.” - 1 Samuel 20:12-23

Understanding the reality of the situation brings...

- ...clarity for future decisions (foundation).
- ...long-term buy-in from those who matter most.

★ David realizes he will sacrifice his freedom.

The Conflict

¹Saul’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? ³¹As 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!”
³²“Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” Jonathan asked his father.
³³But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. ³⁴Jonathan 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.” - 1 Samuel 20:30-34

When pushed to the brink, we tend to revert to what we know best...

- ...selfish, anger-driven Saul throws more spears.
- ...selfless, relationship-driven Jonathan cares more for David.

★ David realizes he will sacrifice his future.

The Conclusion

¹In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him, ³⁶and he said to the boy, “Run and find the arrows I shoot.” As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. ³⁷When the boy came to the place where Jonathan’s arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, “Isn’t the arrow beyond you?”
³⁸Then he shouted, “Hurry! Go quickly! Don’t stop!” The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master. ³⁹(The boy knew nothing about all this; only Jonathan and David knew.)
⁴⁰Then Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy and said, “Go, carry them back to town.”
⁴¹After 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. ⁴²Jonathan 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.” - 1 Samuel 20:35-42

- Jonathan left heartbroken for the loss of a dear friend.
- David left heartbroken, empty and alone.

Sacrifice = the act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or more worthy.

The Commitment

What might we be called to sacrifice to succeed?

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- ...sees the situation _____.
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Why Did David Lie?

1. He was being _____.
2. He was being _____.
3. He was being _____.

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