

1 Samuel 18:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

Analysis

And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

Jonathan's gift of robe, garments, sword, bow, and girdle was extraordinarily symbolic. The robe (meil) represented royal status; its transfer signaled Jonathan's recognition of David as Saul's true successor. Each item - weapons and clothing - represented Jonathan's identity as warrior and prince. This self-stripping prefigures Christ's condescension, where one of higher status clothes one of lower standing with his own dignity.

Historical Context

Royal robes carried legal significance in ancient Near Eastern succession. Jonathan's action went far beyond friendship gesture to political statement. The weapons transfer suggested military allegiance and authorization.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What has someone sacrificed to affirm God's calling on your life?
2. How does Jonathan's self-divestment illustrate grace that elevates others at personal cost?

Interlinear Text

וַתִּפֹּשׂ ט	יְהוֹנָתָן י	אֶת	הַמָּעִיל	אֲשֶׁר ר	עַל יו
stripped	And Jonathan	H853	himself of the robe	H834	H5921
H6584	H3083		H4598		
וְהָיוּ הוּ	לְדָוִד ד	וּמִדָּיו יו	וְעַד	חֶרֶב ו	
that was upon him and gave	it to David	and his garments	H5704	even to his sword	
H5414	H1732	H4055		H2719	
וְעַד	קֶשֶׁת ו	וְעַד	חֲגֹרֹתָּ:		
H5704	and to his bow	H5704	H2290		
	H7198				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 41:42 (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

Isaiah 61:10 (Parallel theme): I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Luke 15:22 (Parallel theme): But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Parallel theme): For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

