

1 Samuel 20:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee.

Analysis

Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee.

Jonathan's unconditional offer - 'Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee' - exemplifies covenant love's total commitment. The Hebrew nephesh (soul) language echoes their soul-knit friendship (18:1). This blank check of loyalty reflects the self-sacrificing love that marks true friendship. Jonathan would indeed do whatever David asked, at great personal cost.

Historical Context

Such unconditional commitments between friends carried binding force in ancient cultures. Jonathan's promise anticipated personal sacrifice given his father's enmity toward David. The soul-level commitment transcended political calculation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What would unconditional commitment to a friend's welfare cost you?
2. How does Jonathan's offer model the kind of love Christ shows His friends?

Interlinear Text

תֹּאמַר	יְהוֹנָתָן	אֶל	דָּוִד	מֶה	תֹּאמַר	נַפְשְׁךָ
Then said	Jonathan	H413	unto David	H4100	Then said	Whatsoever thy soul
H559	H3083		H1732		H559	H5315
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וְאֶעֱשֶׂה	לָךְ					
I will even do	H0					
H6213						

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