

DAVID & JONATHAN: FRIENDS OF FAITH

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Introduction:

A. Take a few moments and think about who your closest friends are:

1. Whether you want to admit it or not, our friendships, especially our close ones, speak volumes about our true intentions on living a life that pleases the Lord!
 - a. Our desire to live for Jesus Christ permeates our entire lives and all of our decisions, even down to our friendships! **(Col. 3:3-4)**
 - b. This is why so many warnings are given in the Bible about choosing the right kind of friend **(I Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20; 22:24-25)**
 - c. Our friendships will either bring us closer to the Lord or drive us further away!
2. Friendships are very important and valuable! We must not allow them to develop by chance or accident – But to think about their impact on our spiritual well-being!

B. Part of what made David a strong man of faith was his choice in best friends!

1. Very early on, David made a decision that he would walk by faith! What we see developing from that point on in his life is no accident at all!
2. I want us to look at the bond shared between Jonathan and David and learn about the type of friendship that is a friend to our faith...

I. FRIENDSHIP'S FOUNDATION: THEIR FAITH

A. Jonathan took a stand against the Philistines because of his faith in God's power:

1. Jonathan took personally Israel's need for a man to deliver them **(I Sam. 14:1, 6-10)**
 - a. The army of Israel was in a bad situation! The only people in the army who had any swords or spears to fight with was Saul and Jonathan
 - b. When you think of Jonathan you don't think of a warrior; however, all he needed to know was that doing this was the will of God!
 - c. He recognized what Saul and many others forgot throughout Israel's history – That God has the power to be victorious whether he uses many men or just a few!
 - d. Because of Jonathan's act of faith the children of Israel were victorious over the Philistines! **(I Sam 14:14-15)**
2. Due to his faith he would now find himself often in conflict with his own father!
 - a. Jonathan had developed a deep faith in the Lord and His power that Saul simply did not understand – This drove a wall between him and his son!
 - b. As Saul drifted further and further from the Lord Jonathan kept growing closer!
 - c. The attitudes, priorities, and actions of this father and son would grow more and more different as time went on!

B. David also took great risks when he decided to face Goliath:

1. He took the responsibility for what belonged to others, including Saul! **(I Sam. 17:32-37)**
 - a. Just he didn't get the faith of his son Jonathan, he doesn't get the faith of David!
 - b. If Saul had any "faith" at all it was a self-centered faith which is really no faith at all!
 - c. David was willing to put himself at "risk" for the faith which he had in God's power!
2. David even made sure all, including Goliath, knew God got the glory! **(I Sam 17:45-47)**
 - a. David was not seeking his own glory or to elevate himself among the people
 - b. This Philistine giant was speaking blasphemies against the Lord and David would not sit around and allow someone to talk about His God like that!
3. Saul did not have the kind of faith David did, because if he did, he would not have been consumed by envy and jealousy toward David! **(I Sam 18:7-8)**

C. Their mutual faith & shared experiences bound them together as best friends!

1. Here were two people who under most circumstances wouldn't be good friends, but their faith in God brought them together! **(I Sam. 17:57-18:1)**
 - a. Jonathan's father considered David his greatest enemy & rival! He pursued David

- relentlessly trying to kill him! David and Jonathan had the odds against them!
- b. They had something in common – Their faith in God which caused both of them to make very courageous stands against the armies of the Philistines – alone!
- c. They both were men of faith, men of principle, and men who loved the Lord above all else – They had the most important things in common!
- 2. Their faith **KNIT** them together – A bond that no force or person could break! (**vs. 3-4**)
 - a. They loved one another deeply and would seek the other’s well being forever!
 - b. They made a covenant that day – Agreeing, no doubt, to stand up for one another and help one another as they tried to live by their faith!
 - c. They were not only friends of one another, but friends of one another’s faith!
- 3. See the same thing with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah (**Dan. 1:6; 2:17-18, 48-49**)
 - a. They found themselves in an environment that was antagonistic to their faith
 - b. Because of the faith they had in common – They found themselves drawing closer to one another for strength, encouragement, and friendship
 - c. Their closest friends were those who had the same drive to do what was right!
- 4. Stands in our faith should have an impact on who we choose as our closest friends!
 - a. Living by faith will cause us to go against the crowd – It will be a characteristic of our lives as a whole, not just one occasional choice (**Rom. 12:2**)
 - b. If friendships are based upon having things in common, who should be closest to us? Those we share our faith with! (**I John 1:7**)
 - c. Our choices in our friendships does speak of our intentions! (**2 Cor. 6:14-17**)

II. THE TESTING OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP:

A. Saul’s relentless and irrational pursuit of David tested their friendship!

- 1. Saul was so consumed by his jealousy and hatred for David that seeking and destroying David became his focus in life!
 - a. This is seen in how the Bible says “He eyed David” (**I Sam. 18:9**)
 - b. It really shows what jealousy will do to you – He chased David all over the place! Through the deserts, mountains, and caves!
 - c. Saul literally became a “spear thrower” in his hatred for David (**I Sam. 18:10-11**)
- 2. Jonathan’s friendship with David and his loyalty to his father could create great conflict!
 - a. Jonathan would have loved his father and would have wanted to please him
 - b. Whenever a child goes against their parents, even when it is for their faith, there can be difficult consequences to face – Yet Jonathan willingly accepted these!
 - c. The consequences would only be magnified since his father was the king!
- 3. Given a little time, every friendship will be tested!
 - a. Anything that has faith as its foundation will stand the test!
 - b. Other kinds of friendships may fail to stand in the face of the test or cause one to compromise his faith for the sake of his friendship – Neither are worth having!

B. Because their friendship was founded upon their faith in God, Jonathan stood by David!

- 1. Jonathan spoke boldly to his father, rebuking him, in defense of David (**I Sam. 19:4-6**)
 - a. Saul had gone so far as to ask Jonathan to kill David for him!
 - b. Jonathan **BOLDLY** pointed out who was in the wrong! It wasn’t David who was sinning, but it was his father who was sinning in his anger and envy!
 - c. Jonathan continued to warn his friend David in spite of his father!
- 2. Saul even tried to “win back” Jonathan’s allegiance by enticing him with the idea that the kingdom of Israel could one day belong to him! (**I Sam. 20:30-31**)
 - a. Saul had no right to do! The kingdom was not his to give away! God had already spoken given the kingdom to David through Samuel!
 - b. Saul made the mistake of thinking that the type of friendship and loyalty that Jonathan and David had could be purchased with material things!
 - c. This type of friendship only comes through a mutual faith and love for God!
- 3. Saul’s anger went so far he nearly killed Jonathan! (**I Sam. 20:32-33**)
- 4. As we learn here, faith’s friendships are sources of support and protection:

- a. True friends do not follow another's personal vendetta against other people
- b. A friend of faith will stand up for a friend when he is in the right but will be there to rebuke him when he is wrong (**Prov. 27:6, 9, 17**)
- c. A friend of faith will be willing to make sacrifices to do the right thing because of their faith in God and because they are men and women of principle!

III. THE SEPARATION OF TWO GREAT FRIENDS:

A. Sadly, there came a day when these two friends had to part ways

1. When Jonathan finally realized that Saul would not give up till David had been killed, Jonathan knew that they'd have to separate: (**1 Sam. 20:41-42**)
 - a. For their own safety's sake they would have to part ways
 - b. A sad occasion – They might not ever see each other again and they knew it!
2. They had one last reunion before they saw each other no more (**1 Sam 23:15-18**)
 - a. David was in a time in his life where he needed strength and encouragement – He was constantly being chased around by Saul and his army!
 - b. Jonathan's last words to David were words of encouragement about his situation
 - c. Notice he "strengthened his hand in God" → Jonathan's last words of encouragement to David were encouraging him in his walk of faith in God!
 - d. This should be no surprise since their entire friendship was based on their faith!
3. Finally, they suffered the ultimate separation when Jonathan died (**1 Sam. 31:6**)
 - a. He loved his father as any son would and stood by his side when he could
 - b. Because of his principles, he couldn't stand in support of his father when he pursued David, however, he could support him in this battle
 - c. Death only separated them temporarily – They would one day see a great reunion!
4. David never forgot the great friendship he had with Jonathan – It was a memory he held dear and continued to impact him throughout his life!
 - a. In "The Song of the Bow" David remembers the great friendship they shared & through the song taught generations to come about it! (**2 Sam. 1:25-27**)
 - b. Years later David remembers this friendship of faith and honors Jonathan by showing kindness, literally grace, to Mephibosheth (**2 Sam. 9:6-8**)

B. While sad, there are times when friends of faith must separate:

1. If you had one last meeting with a good friend, what would be said?
 - a. Would you talk to them about something they need to fix in their lives that you have been putting off talking to them about?
 - b. Also, what would your friend "encourage" you in? Would it be to encourage you to be strong in the Lord? Or would they encourage you in worldly things?
 - c. **Illustration:** Country Song: "Live Like You Were Dying"
2. When friends of faith must separate at death, it's not final!
 - a. While it is sad when anyone we are friends with and has encouraged us spiritually, we can look on in hope that we will be with them once again!
 - b. As we continue to live their example and words that they have spoken to us in the past continues to be a source of strength and encouragement
 - c. We look back upon precious memories, hold them dear, but because we were "friends in faith" we have the assurance of seeing each other again!
 - d. **Illustration:** Words to "Friends Are Friends Forever"
3. There is a special bond between friends of faith that no person, force, or distance can sever! It's a bond that those who aren't faithful don't understand! (**Prov. 18:24**)

CONCLUSION: What kind of friend are you? What kind of friends are you the closest to?

- A. Jonathan & David's friendship was based upon their faith – This created a powerful bond!
- B. Just like their friendship spoke volumes on their determination to serve God – So does our choice in who we will be best friends with speaks about us!
- C. They stood up for one another & with one another – Helping each other in their walk with God!
- D. It's this kind of friendship we need to desire, pursue, and develop!