

Themes in the Life of David
Lesson2 – The Friends of David – The Power of a Biblical Fellowship
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Introduction: What are the tools that God uses to mold a man?

- A. God created man as a social creature. We are greatly affected by our associations!
 - 1. The greatest betrayal can come from those closest to us. **(Mt 10:37)**
 - 2. Satan understands this and it may be his most powerful weapon. **(Mt 10:21-22; Jn 9:22)**
 - 3. Our God also uses this need to powerfully build us up if we are wise. **(Prov 27:17)**
- B. Fellowship describes association with others and the things that we share together.
 - 1. κοινωνία - *fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, contact*; in the N. T. as in classical Greek – Thayer's
 - a. *the share which one has in anything, participation*; ... **Phil. 2:1; 2 Cor. 13:13; Phil. 3:10; Philemon 1:6; 1 Cor. 10:16**
 - b. *contact, fellowship, intimacy*: the right hand as the sign and pledge of fellowship ... **Gal. 2:9**; what in common has light with darkness? **2 Cor. 6:14**; used of the intimate bond of fellowship which unites Christians: absolutely, **Acts 2:42; 1 John. 1:3, 7**; of the fellowship of Christians with God and Christ, ... **1 John 1:3, 6**, (which fellowship, according to John's teaching, consists in the fact that Christians are partakers in common of the same mind as God and Christ, and of the blessings arising there from).
 - 2. Friendship is a divine gift that we need to understand. Most of all we need to be a friend of God and of Christ. **(Jn 11:11; 15:14-15; Jas 2:23)**

I. David and Jonathan – A Friendship created by a common faith.

- A. Men of faith will have occasions in life where their faith stands out. **(Jas 2:18)**
 - 1. To live by faith will cause you to go against the crowd.
 - 2. When this happens it is a characteristic of your life rather than an occasional choice to be different. **(Rom 12:2)**
- B. Jonathan's faith caused him to be placed at great risk. **(1 Sam 14:1, 8-10)**
 - 1. All Jonathan needed to know was the will of God!
 - 2. This stand of faith would cause a victory for the people of God. **(1 Sam 14:14-15)**
 - 3. Sadly, Jonathan had a faith that his father could no longer understand. Often they would now be in conflict. **(1 Sam 14:39, 43-45)**
 - 4. Jonathan's faith caused him to have the right kind of influence! That would make a difference in his choice of friends.
 - 5. What would a young person do who live by faith today?
- C. David also placed himself at risk against Goliath.
 - 1. Did Saul understand this kind of faith? No, he had turned to a self-centered "faith" which was no faith at all. **(1 Sam 17:32-37)**
 - 2. David even let Goliath know who was to get the glory. **(1 Sam 17:45-47)**
 - 3. If Saul had this kind of faith the later bitterness and envy would have not risen

up to destroy him. **(1 Sam 18:7-8)**

D. Why did David and Jonathan become friends? **(1 Sam 17:57-18:1)**

1. Here were men of faith and because of that they were men of principle.
2. They made a commitment to the genuine good towards each other that no force on earth could move. **(1 Sam 18:3-4)**

Class Discussion:

1. How are we affected by our associations?
2. How does one find a true friend?
3. Why does Jesus refer to His relationship with His disciples as a friendship?
4. How did David and Jonathan become friends?
5. What are the differences between a godly friend and a worldly friend?

II. The Testing of Friendship – Relationship or principle: Which comes first?

A. In time every friendship based on faith and principle will be tested.

1. Anything built on real faith will stand the test. **(1 Jn 5:4-5)**
2. There are other kinds of friendship that will fail under test or compromise faith for the sake of friendship. Neither of these are worth having!

B. Saul's irrational hatred of David provided a great test.

1. Saul became in many ways a "spear thrower." **(1 Sam 18:10-11)**
2. Have you ever had to go against your own parents? **(Mat 10:37)**
3. There are great prices to pay when you go against the irrational bitterness of a father, especially when he is the king.

C. Jonathan was loyal to David because the friendship was based upon faith.

1. He boldly spoke the truth to his father because he was a man of principle! **(1 Sam 19:4-6)**
2. A man of principle will defend a friend when he is right and rebuke him when he is wrong. **(Prov 27:6, 9, 17)**
3. Real friends will not follow another's personal vendetta!

D. Jonathan warned David in spite of Saul.

1. Even after a successful first rebuke, Saul went back to pursuing David.
2. Saul tries to entice Jonathan by the prospect of the kingdom being his one day. **(1 Sam 20:30-31)**
 - a. The kingdom was not Saul's to give. **(1 Sam 13:13-14)**
 - b. Notice the additional pressure used by Saul's appeal to the reputation of Jonathan's mother.
 - c. Friendship cannot be bought with things!
 - d. Many parents make this mistake.
3. In the second rebuke Saul tried to kill his own son. **(1 Sam 20:32-34; 22:8)**
 - a. Men of principle will stand up against the spear throwers.
 - b. The pain would be relieved because Jonathan did what was right and would not remain silent. May we have more men like this in the church!

4. In their last meeting Jonathan strengthened David in his relationship with God.
(1 Sam 23:16)

Class Discussion:

1. What is the goal of true friendship?
2. Why is it difficult to rebuke a friend?
3. What would you want a friend to do when you are in the wrong? Give some possible examples.
4. How does the world try to break spiritual friendships?
5. How can we find spiritual friends? Do you have any?

III. The consequences of a compromised friendship and fellowship

- A. Saul had friends too. Upon what basis did he have them?
 1. Consider the “friends” of the prodigal son. (Lk 15:13-16)
 2. With other give attention and praise to you does not mean you have a real friend.
(Jude 16; Rom 16:18; 1 Thess 2:5)
 3. The friends of the world will be your friend as long as you are useful. Afterwards you will be discarded like trash. (Gal 4:17-20)
- B. Doeg the Edomite was a “friend” of King Saul. (1 Sam 21:7)
 1. He was a rich man because of his position given by Saul. (Psa 52:7)
 2. He was the classic “yes man.” He knew Saul to be a man dominated by anger and he used that to his advantage. Doeg would be “understanding and loyal.”
 3. Doeg witnessed the visit by David to the Ahimelech the priest but deliberately withheld all of the truth to feed Saul’s wrath. (1 Sam 22:9-10)
 4. Why do this? Saul was very suspicious of his own men and Doeg could stand out as “loyal.” (1 Sam 22:7-8)
 5. The men with Saul had enough principle to refuse to kill the priests. Now Doeg could show additional “loyalty” to Saul. He murders the priests and their families. (1 Sam 22:16-19)
 6. David wrote a Psalm about Doeg. (Ps 52:1-9)
 7. What would Doeg do for Saul if the worldly advantages ceased? (Ex. If you would lie for me you would lie to me!)
- C. Saul was very successful in finding “friends” in Israel that lived by the flesh.
 1. David spared the city of Keilah from the Philistines and thus should have been safe there. God revealed to him the real “loyalty” of these people.
(1 Sam 23:11-12)
 2. Many out of fear or favor to an angry man will sell you out! Sadly some churches are filled with cowardly men who will not stand up.
 3. David found himself surrounded by new enemies because others wanted to please King Saul. Consider the Ziphites. (1 Sam 23:19-20)
 4. Please remember that God will stand with you when men run away.
The greatest hurt will come from your brethren! (Psa 55:4-5, 12-14)

D. Please remember that God's wisdom, friendship and fellowship must have purity and principle at its foundation or it is not from God. (**James 3:17-18**)

1. Why do some brethren find comfort in a fellowship that will not apply and stand upon Bible truths? (**2 Cor 6:14-17; Eph 5:6-11**)
2. What will be the end result in such a fellowship?

Class Discussion:

1. Describe the character of Doeg from Psalms 52. What kind of person would be his friend?
2. What dangers exist in being in a business that requires social time and relationships?
3. What can false friends do to you? Why is this kind of hurt greater?
4. Can we make applications from friendship to fellowship? Explain.
5. What can you expect when you attend a church that has compromised God's teaching on fellowships?

A Special Friendship

By Steve Casebolt

(2 Tim 4:6-9 NKJV) "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. Be diligent to come to me quickly."

Apart from our parents our friends probably influence us more than anyone else. For that reason, Paul warns of the danger of keeping the wrong kind of company.

(1 Cor 15:33) We can also see the beauty of the proper kind of association that is manifested in the relationship he sustained with Timothy. When the crisis of life knocks at our door from time to time, most of us want someone to stand by us and share the burden. For Christians, this "someone" is generally a comrade in the gospel who is a spiritual strength and influence in our lives.

The friendship of David and Jonathan aptly illustrates this principle. As Saul was attempting to murder David because of jealousy, David had to flee to the wilderness to escape a cruel death from his own king, whom he had loyally served. David was hiding out in the woods. No doubt, Saul's envy made this a very distressful time for David. The Scriptures reveal that at this point, "Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God." (**1 Sam 23:16 NKJV**)

What more can one Christian do for another?? Those who are genuinely devoted to Christ and have nurtured a love for spiritual things generally develop a strong spiritual bond with someone of the same persuasion and conviction. It is a natural sequence: "... everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him." (**1 John 5:1 NKJV**)

A struggling soldier of the cross can find no greater friend than his beloved brother who will talk to him about spiritual things, share with him inspired words of God, and pay with him to a God at whose throne they both bow.