

THE FRIENDSHIP OF JONATHAN AND DAVID

Introduction:

1. As Saul drifts further into sin and away from God, his son, Jonathan, stands out as man of faith and character.
2. Had Saul remained king, it seems likely that Jonathan would have followed him in that role.
3. Yet, Jonathan was submissive and devoted to the will of the Lord.
4. This is seen clearly in his friendship with David.

I. A Picture of True, Biblical Love

- A. The relationship between David and Jonathan is an example of the kind of love God desires for all mankind to practice.
- B. Its foundation was their mutual faith in God.
 1. Remember that Jonathan had acted boldly in battle because of his trust in the Lord (14:6).
 2. Likewise, David had faced and defeated Goliath by the same trust in Jehovah (17).
 3. Thus, they could relate to one another as servants of the one, true God of Heaven
 4. "The modesty, piety, and courage of David were so congenial to the character of the amiable Jonathan, that they attracted his most cordial esteem and affection; so that the most intimate friendship subsisted between them from that time, and they loved each other with pure hearts fervently. Their friendship could not be affected by the common vicissitudes of life; and it exemplifies by fact what the ancients have written on the subject. ...'Friendship produces an entire sameness; it is one soul in two bodies. A friend is another self.'" (TSK)
 5. This should characterize our relationships as Christians (2 Peter 1:1; Romans 1:12).
 6. This should be a consideration as we build relationships.
- C. Jonathan loved him as his own soul (18:1).
 1. This is the essence of the Golden Rule and the second greatest command (Matthew 7:12; 22:35-40; James 2:8).
 2. This kind of love is needed in the home (Eph. 5:28-33).
 3. This kind of love is needed in the church (Phil. 2:1-4; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:25-26).
- D. Their souls were knit together (18:1).
 1. Literally, their souls were tied together with knots – chained together (cf. Genesis 44:30).
 2. Often, we sing "Bless Be the Tie that Binds" while working to sever ourselves from God and His people.
 3. Christians are to be knit together in love (cf. Judges 20:11; Col. 2:1-2; Psa. 133:1; John 13:34-35; 17:21-23; Acts 4:32).
- E. They made a covenant with one another (18:3).
 1. This was a covenant of friendship and brotherhood.
 2. However, it was also a solemn covenant – invoking the name of God (cf. 23:15-18).
 3. Our relationships should involve commitment to what is best for all involved.

1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7; 20:1-42

- F. They were willing to give all they had to help each other (18:4).
 - 1. David was a shepherd who had come to the royal court with only the clothes on his back and his herdsman tools.
 - 2. Jonathan bestowed upon him a great honor by presenting him with his royal garments and weapons.
 - 3. Yet, Jonathan's motivation was love and care for David.
 - 4. This kind of love is needed in the church (cf. Acts 2:44-46; 4:32-35).
- G. They spoke well of one another (19:1-7).
 - 1. Even though Saul wanted to kill David, Jonathan remained a true friend and warned David of the danger he faced.
 - 2. Jonathan "delighted much in David" (cf. Psalm 18:19; 40:8; 37:23; 73:25; 112:1; 119:35).
 - 3. In order to help his friend, Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul.
 - 4. Friends do not run one another down or seek to hurt another's reputation (Lev. 19:16; Prov. 11:13; 18:8; 2 Cor. 12:20).
 - 5. As a result of Jonathan's friendship, the relationship between David and Saul was temporarily restored.
- H. They were honest with one another (20:1, 8).
 - 1. David knew that he could ask Jonathan if he had done any wrong or committed any sin and Jonathan would tell him the truth.
 - 2. A true friend will tell us the truth in love, that we may correct our errors (cf. Gal. 4:16).
- I. They prayed together (20:11-17).
 - 1. Jonathan called upon God to be a witness to the promise made to David.
 - 2. This brought them even closer and they extended their covenant with one another to include their children (cf. 2 Sam. 9:1-7; 21:7).
 - 3. True love and friendship is manifested in our prayers for one another (James 5:16; Col. 1:9; 1 Thes. 5:23, 25).
- J. They were loyal to one another (20:30-42; 2 Samuel 1:26).
 - 1. Jonathan's friendship with David caused his father to turn against him and attempt to kill him.
 - 2. Yet, Jonathan remained true to the Lord and to David.
 - 3. He kept his word by informing David of Saul's desire to kill him.
 - 4. He wept with his friend and they departed from one another in sadness, but with peace – for their bond in the Lord still united them.
 - 5. The faithful love and devotion of Jonathan was beyond David's understanding – "passing the love of women" (cf. Prov. 17:17; 18:24).
 - 6. This kind of loyal love is needed in our world, our homes, and the church.
 - 7. We must love the Lord with loyalty – faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).
- K. What kind of friend am I?