

1 Samuel 18:1-16
Faithful Friendships/Mentorships
Life of David Series
(David: After God's Own Heart)

Today in our study in the life of David – we are going to see the beginnings of one of the greatest friendships recorded in Scripture

A)The Friendship between Jonathan and David.

B)Interesting to read different people's perspectives on Friendship

C)Little Kids on Friendship:

6 year old Boy – We are best friends because we both hate Broccoli

5 year old boy- A Friend is someone who will still play with you after you fart

7 year old Girl – Friends are like Band-Aids -They help you feel better and stick to forever

Friendship from Generation Alpha those born after 2010 –

My best friend is the one who builds with me in Minecraft and doesn't blow up my house.

A Friend is one who will help you up if you fall after they stop laughing and take a tik tok.

Friendship perspective from Gen Z – 13-28 year olds
"Friendship is trauma bonding, mutual memes, and hyping each other up over the smallest wins."

"Friendship means being emotionally supportive, but also aggressively sarcastic."

Friendship from a Millennials perspective: 29-44

"Millennial friendship is saying 'let's catch up!' for three years straight and meaning it."

My best friends are the ones who saw me through my emo phase and stayed anyway."

Friendship is just trauma bonding with someone who knows your favorite Office quote."

Friendship now is texting 'you alive?' and knowing that means 'I love you, I miss you, are you okay?'"

Friendship from a Boomers Perspective 60-79

A true friend is someone who shows up—with coffee, a casserole, or a shovel, depending on the situation."

Friends are the family you get to choose—and the ones who remind you where you left your glasses."

A British publication once offered a prize for the best definition of a friend.

A)Among the thousands of answers received were the following:

B)One who understands our silence{ A Drive

"One who multiplies joys, divides grief, and whose honesty is unbreakable."

C)The winning definition read: "A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out."

In 1 Samuel 18 we see the starting point of a friendship that the Bible holds up as an example
A)Pick up the story Chapter 17:54 – we ended our study last time – David took down Goliath

B)Took Goliath's sword and cut off his head

⁵⁴ And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

C)Now the journey from the Valley of Elah to Jerusalem was 25 miles

D)Picture as David comes walking into the City carrying the head of the Giant and his Armor – why?

Well the Head of Goliath was a witness, and the armor of Goliath was a reminder.

A)Let me explain.

B)David took the head of Goliath back to Jerusalem to let the people of God know that there was a God in Israel who was stronger than any Giant,

C)Their God would not let His people be intimidated by an uncircumcised Philistine.

D)What joy that must have brought them,

1)what confidence and faith that must have given them.

E)The head of Goliath was a constant witness to Israel of the power and faithfulness of their God.

The armor of Goliath was brought back and stored in David's tent as a reminder to DAVID

A)It reminded him that there was not a giant in his life that he could not defeat with the help of the Living God.

B)David would need that reminder,

1)See there were dark days ahead for David that would be filled with more giants

C)Different type from Goliath but just as big & strong and fearsome as Goliath,

D)in those days the armor of Goliath would serve him well. Reminder of God's faithfulness

The need for Public and Private Memorials –

A)Public memorial – Baptism – going on record publicly – Faith in Jesus

B)Communion – Remembering Together Christ death for us

Private memorials – Journals

A)A picture – A Tattoo

B)Something that helps you remember the Faithfulness of God in your life

C)So David brings both a Public and Private reminder back to Jerusalem

Now for those times ahead David wouldn't only need a Reminder – he would need a friend –

Prov 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

A)That is what God gives him in the text before us today

⁵⁵ When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son *is* this youth?"

And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

⁵⁶ So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man *is*."

⁵⁷ Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his

hand. ⁵⁸ And Saul said to him, "Whose son *are* you, young man?"

So David answered, "*I am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

Ch.18

Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

So here we see the beginnings of this remarkable friendship. – Incredible Bond

A)Our Text tells us their souls were Knit together

B)Knit = fastened to – Bound together

C)Aristotle What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies.

D)It is a rare and special thing when God Fastens two hearts together – { outside of marriage

1)Hearts that are Fastened in a friendship

E)Jonathan's heart was fastened to David's heart

Similar faith in God: Ch.14 Jonathan & Armor bearer – Let's see what God might want to do!

A)Jonathan hadn't seen similar faith in all of Israel

B)Jonathan also understood what David did- that the Battle belongs to the Lord

C)It is my personal opinion that Jonathan would have gone out to fight Goliath if his dad let him

1)What is one Giant when he took on a whole garrison?

D)Hearts Knit together by a similar Faith

Their bond is a beautiful picture of friendship but even more than a friendship – a mentorship

A)I say that because Jonathan was at least 10 years older than David

B)If David is 16-17 years old at this time – most scholars believe

C)Jonathan is at least 27 or 28 years old

D)This passage has great application to those of us here who are older

Back in January when we were studying in 1 John – I gave a study from 1 John 2:12-14

A)A Generational Church - missed it – worth listening to – A word for our Church

B)We are a Church made up of different Generations/ – all have a place a purpose

C)I am thankful we are a Generational Church – that all the Generations are represented here

And yet if we want to remain a Generational church

A)I think it is crucial that those of us who are older here – to learn from Jonathan

B)How to be great friends and encouragers especially to those who are younger in the body of Christ V.2
² Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.

³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴ And Jonathan took off the robe that *was* on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

First thing that I want you to note here about Jonathan is he was intentional in his approach

A)V.3 He made a Covenant with DAVID

B)Meaning this wasn't a casual relationship

C)It was marked by commitment and intentionality

1)If we are going to forge strong healthy friendships and mentorships – Intentionality is Key

D)Maybe I will see you next week – let's just see what happens – 9-10 not going to happen.

When I was a younger pastor I craved mentorship

A)I reached out to some older pastors I admired

B)Often I would hear – I will have my secretary call you. – Never did

C)Lets maybe connect at the conference – never....

D)I am not saying these were bad guys – great guys – but Busy – I learned not intentional not happening

A couple of years ago -I sought out 6 pastors who are all at least 10 yrs younger than I am

A)I posed the idea that we would commit to getting together 4 times over the course of a year for 3 days...

B)It was intentional – they had to make a commitment – to the group and to each other

C)One guy was from Florida, one from Nor Cal – another Nevada – 3 from SoCal

We were intentional about getting together and a Deep Bond has formed – to this day.

A)Constantly sharing – Praying – sharing stories Praise reports – cheering on each others kids

B)I Consider them to be some of my closest friends

C)Intentionality is key to establishing strong bonds and relationships

D)Life is too busy – too many demands and distractions to be hap hazard about it

E)You will be saying let's get together for the next 3 years.

Woman are so much better at this

A)Guys can be together for HOURS and never talk about anything substantive.

B)Comedian Brian Regan talks about this is one of his routines He is recounting a conversation he had with his wife after spending the day with his friend Gary

Reagan says, "I have this friend Gary who got divorced

Gary I went golfing recently, it was the first time I'd seen him since the divorce.

So when I got home, my wife's asked "How's Gary coping with the divorce?"/ "Fine, I think."

She says "I thought you went golfing with Gary today"
"I did" "

And you don't know how he's doing with the divorce?"

"It never came up."

"Is he dating anyone?" / "I don't know."

"Were you two in the same golf cart?" / "Yes."

"You were in the same golf cart for 4 hours and you don't know if he's dating anyone?"

"I know he's got a great new driver."

"How is that possible that the question how Gary's doing wouldn't come up?"

He says, "How is that possible it would come up?" "

Would I say: It looks like you are about 130 yards away – I would go with the 9 iron and BTW – Are you dating anyone. ☺

So typical of Guys right? –

A)And I think all of us are tempted to make the excuse that we just don't have time to invest in deep relationships

B)I like what Kevin Kelly says about this in his book, *Excellent Advice for Living*:

"You don't need more time because you already have all the time that you will ever get; You need more focus."

- Kevin Kelly, *Excellent Advice for Living*:

C)Jonathan was intentional in his approach to David

2nd Mark of Jonathan's Friendship is it was Sacrificial –

V4 And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

A)Now don't miss the significance of this,

B)Jonathan's robe was a symbol of his Position and his royal lineage,

1)That he was in line to be the next king

C)His Armor was a Symbol of his Prestige– Great warrior

1)His Sword was a Symbol of his Power

D)When learned in Ch.13:22 that he and his father were the only ones in all of Israel who had swords

He takes all of this and lays it on David, it's like Jonathan is saying:

A)All that I am, and all that I could become, I bestow on you.

B)I am going to take what I have to help you become who God wants you to be

C)That's the essence of real friendship isn't it?

1) Real friendship is sacrificial, real friendship is costly, real friendship demands that you give of yourself.

Note: Jonathan wasn't threatened by David

A)Jonathan technically was next in line to be King of Israel – that is how it worked

B)There wasn't a Vote a King would typically be succeeded by his son.

But Jonathan seems to have the spiritual maturity that the next king wasn't supposed to be him

A)But it was going to be David

B)Jonathan Knew that His fathers Kingdom was in decline

C)He was there when Samuel the prophet uttered those faithful words to King Saul his dad

1)Your Kingdom is being taken from you and given to another

D)And when Jonathan saw David Kill Goliath I think something resonated in his heart

1)THIS IS THE ONE

E)This Young man is the one God is picking to lead the nation – and rather than fight against that

1)Jonathan Chose to support David in his calling

This isn't speculation on my part –David and Jonathan renew this Covenant in Ch. 20

A)It is there that we learn some of the details of it – what we see is this

B)Jonathan asks – that when David comes into Power that he would not Destroy his household

1)SEE THAT WAS COMMON PRACTICE IN THAT DAY – Get rid of all Potential Insurrectionist

C)Jonathan didn't see David as a threat to advance himself

1)but as the Man who would advance the Cause of God

Here is what the friendship of Jonathan did for David:

A)It propelled him to heights that he could not achieve on his own.

B) This is what a good friend will always do, a good friend will believe more in you & the calling on your life, then you do in yourself.

That is what Jonathan did for David.

A) When David got down, Jonathan was there to lift him up,

B) when David was under attack, Jonathan defended him and watched his back,

1) when David made mistakes, Jonathan pointed them out but never condemned him.

C) When David got off track, Jonathan was there to point the way,

1) there were many times that David could have lost his way, but Jonathan made sure that didn't happen.

We will see all of these as our story unfolds in the upcoming chapters.

A) A good friend will do all that they can to make sure that your calling becomes a reality.

B) That is what Jonathan did for David –

C) Jonathan Sacrificed here & would in the future to advance & encourage David !!!!

Listen You want to be a good Mentor – Be intentional

A) And know this it is going to cost you – there will be some sacrifice involved

B) Resources – time- energy – But I it is all worth helping others become who God wants them to be

C) The 3rd thing we want to note about this friendship is it would have to endure Some test.

1) Every friendship – has it's test - Challenges that arise – that you have to navigate through

D) This Friendship would have to endure the test of Success V.5-9 and the test of Loyalty V.10-16

E) First the test of Success –

⁵ So David went out wherever Saul sent him, *and* behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. ⁶ Now it had happened as they were coming *home*, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the

cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷ So the women sang as they danced, and said:

“Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands.”

⁸ Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *only* thousands. Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?” ⁹ So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

C) David's star is beginning to rise – the women sing their songs – Saul Slain 1K / David 10K /

D) As David's star was beginning to rise / Jonathan's fading

1) But Jonathan unlike his father – doesn't get jealous – never a peep of an what about me attitude /

E) Jonathan is not going around saying what about the Philistines I have slain

1) 1 Cor. 13:4 *Love doesn't envy* –

How do you respond when others around you are Blessed? Prospering

A) Your friend at work gets promoted & you don't Do you rejoice with him or resent him?

B) When we respond in the latter – it is only sign of not being secure in our own relationship w/ the Lord

1) Not secure in the plan that God has for you.

C) It was after the Resurrection – Jesus was meeting with his disciples – Talking to Peter Jn 21 about how Peter was going to suffer for the Lord

D) Peter didn't like the sound of this – saw John and said – what about him –

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

So often that is our mentality – we are so worried about what is happening to everyone else

A) The Lord says to us – You Follow me – forget about what I am doing with him/her – You follow

B) Because Jonathan was secure in his own relationship w/ the Lord –

1)He was willing to take a Backseat to see David – Promoted

C)There wasn't the competition thing that can ruin friendships /

1)he saw the hand of the Lord on David & wanted to support his friend

D)SO 1st: Jon friendship sailed thru the test of Success

Next came the Test of Loyalty Rd v.10-16

¹⁰ And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there was* a spear in Saul's hand. ¹¹ And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

¹² Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. ¹³ Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴ And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD *was* with him. ¹⁵ Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

Here Jonathan finds himself in a very difficult situation – Dad is in sin in the flesh –

A)Jonathan walks this fine line of being true to his dad – but Loyal to David

B)We will see how this plays out in the next few Chapters

C)It Would have been very natural for Jonathan to turn on David & say something like –

Look at the trouble you our causing our family

1)*My dad is freaking out – he is going out of his mind & it is all your fault*

D)But Jonathan does no such thing – instead he remains faithful to the Lord

E)He risks even his life for David - / when things finally get bad – David has to flee –

1)it is Jonathan 1 Sam.23 comes to David when in doubt. Distress- Strengthens his hands in God !!!!!

Now I think that it is easy to read this section and think I wish I had more friends like Jonathan

A)Can I encourage you – Instead look to be a Jonathan

B)It is great to have a friend like Jonathan – to be blessed in that way

1)Even greater blessing to be that kind of Friend

C)I am in this season of life now – where I am a mentor to many – So Rewarding

D)Enjoy it way more than the season when I was a Mentee – thought I needed that so much

E)Such a Joy seeing guys that I have the privilege of encouraging and helping – Thrive

Can I encourage you older men and women in the faith look to be a Jonathan to someone.

A)Be intentional – Be willing to sacrifice – you will not regret it

B)Jonathan looks a lot like Jesus

Prov. 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly - But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

A)Jesus is that friend who sticks closer than a Brother

B)Stripped Himself of Glory / left the comforts of heaven / came down into my world –

C)So he could go to the Cross and our place Punishment

D)He lowered himself so that we could be advanced

He made a Covenant with us – New Covenant

A)He sealed it with his Blood

B)This New Covenant is not based on us doing our part to earn God's Favor –

C)That was the Nature of the Old Covenant –

But in the New Covenant – Jesus did it all and we enter into the Blessing of God – BELIEVING

A)BELIEVING in the FINISHED work of Jesus

B)Walking with him – Enjoying Life with Him

C)Eternal life – Quality of life that starts now living in relationship with God

D)As well as a Longevity of life we look forward to living eternally with Jesus –

WWII – A soldier watched his best friend go down –
Stuck in no man's land – between trenches

A)In his fox hole – I have got to go save him
His Sergeant said – no way – you will get shot

B)Sarg I have got to do it – *Solider I am ordering you not to Go – not worth it*

C) He went anyway: He was wounded in the process and when he tumbled back into the fox hole
1)it was apparent that his friend was already dead .

Sarg asked– Why did you do it – I told you not to – I told you would get Shot – why didn't you listen ?
A)"I told you it wouldn't be worth it. Your friend is DEAD and now you are mortally wounded."

B)"It was worth it, though, sir," Sarg said. "How do you mean, 'worth it'? I tell you your friend is dead."

C)The young now wounded soldier answered, "it was worth it, because when I got to him he was still alive, and he said to me, 'Jim, I knew you'd come.'"

Listen Jesus found us wounded by Sin – In rescue attempt cost Him His life –

A)New life in Return

B)Eternal life in return – All who believe

C)Assurance – Confidence

Pray-

A)If you were to die today – how sure are you that you would go to heaven – spend eternity with Jesus?

B)Scale: 1-10 – 10 very sure; 1 not sure at all.

C)How many of you – 1-3 not real sure
1)5-7 maybe? Hopeful

D)8-10 Confident?