

## Friends and Foes (1)

Our study of the life of David continues, today we look at the first half of these passages and consider “friends”. In previous studies we concluded that all of scripture points to Jesus, in fact Jesus as recorded in John 5:39 said to the Pharisee’s;

*“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me”*

In our modern culture today many times friendship feels like this: *“I’m having people over to stare at their phones later if you want to come by...”*

*“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” (Genesis 1:26)*

When we think of friendship, many times we don’t realize that it is a much deeper issue that is tied with the way our creator has made us. We also see this in the Triune Godhead as “our” words are used to describe the Fathers relationship with the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*“The very condition for making friends is that we want something else besides friends...Friendship must be about something...it must arise out of something. Those who have nothing to share, share nothing. Those who are going nowhere, have no fellow travelers.”*  
*(C.S. Lewis)*

Much like us in the church today, who may not have anything else in common, God’s Kingdom purposes brought David and Jonathan together.

*“After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.<sup>2</sup> From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family.<sup>3</sup> And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.<sup>4</sup> Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.” (1 Samuel 18:1-4)*

After the battle with Goliath, David’s notoriety was growing and he was brought into King Saul’s full time service. This friendship was built on a *covenant*; it is never *contractual*, but always based on a covenant.

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When we think about it, they are the most unlikely friends, one was a country boy looking after the sheep and Jonathan was the firstborn of the King with all its privileges. Their paths under normal circumstances would never have crossed.

When Jonathan took off his robe, his tunic, sword as well as his bow and belt it was a very significant act. He was saying; “I give up my right to be king, I want you (David) to be everything God wants you to be”. In Tim Keller’s book “The meaning of marriage” he points out that a marriage is “a friendship that has sex and romance”. A good marriage is built on the same foundational blocks as a Biblical friendship.

All that Jonathan gave David are significant, but none more than his sword. He made himself vulnerable to serve his friend.

*“Saul’s anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, “You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don’t I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?”<sup>31</sup> As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!” (1 Samuel 20:30-31)*

We see a clear contrast between Saul and Jonathan. Saul resented David, Jonathan not only loved David but also would put action behind that love and protect him.

*“Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.” (1 Samuel 20:42)*

Interestingly, in previous weeks David was the “Christ figure”, where today his friend Jonathan will be the Christ figure and an example for us. It will be Jonathan who protected David and releasing him into the fullness of what God has for him, even at great sacrifice to himself and his dreams.

Also notice that this covenant extends far beyond their lives to their children and children’s children. This will result in a great story, long after Jonathan’s death that we will look at in a couple of weeks.

*“While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life.<sup>16</sup> And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.<sup>17</sup> “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.”<sup>18</sup> The two of them made a covenant before the LORD.” (1 Samuel 23:15-18)*

As David is on the run, it will be Jonathan that “helped him find strength in God”. This phrase literally means; “put courage in him” and despite all that was happening around them they renewed their covenant.

was happening around them they renewed their covenant.

There are people that try to pervert this relationship into something it wasn't. Those who do don't understand how God can knit two lives together.

### **What Makes a True Friendship?**

- **Common passion + constancy + transparency = friendship.**

*“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.” (Proverbs 12:26)*

### **How do I know if a relationship is questionable?**

- **You catch yourself becoming someone you aren't.**
- **Your world is segmented**
- **My need for acceptance outweighs who I know I am meant to be.**

*“Jesus changed the party, the party never changed Him”*

*“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20)*

*“One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (Proverbs 18:24)*

*“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” (Proverbs 27:6)*

*“As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” (Proverbs 27:17)*

*“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends... I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:13, 15)*

Pastor Randy drew a diagram representing the different types of relationships we have in our lives. (For more information please listen to the attached audio link)

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- *People who mentor us* in many areas, family, ministry, attitude
- *Lateral relationships*, people we share life with
- *People we mentor and disciple* helping them grow

## Discussion Questions

- 1) Randy began talking about “friendship” and how a biblical friendship is much deeper and is tied with the way our creator has made us. Before we talk about David and Jonathan as you consider Genesis 1:26 discuss the nature of the Father in relationship with the Son and the Holy Spirit and what that should say to us as believers.
- 2) When we consider this friendship between these two men, we realize what C.S. Lewis said was right; “*Friendship must be about something...it must arise out of something*” Please discuss the fact that this friendship was built not only God’s Kingdom purposes, but on a covenant which is never contractual.
- 3) As we read 1 Samuel 18: 1-4, we see the first-born son of a king who is heir apparent to the throne. Please discuss Jonathan’s willingness to sacrifice for his friend that David would experience all that God has for him. How does this relate not only in our friendships but our marriages, children, etc.?
- 4) This pair of unlikely friends had a friendship that was built on a *covenant*. What does that mean to you and what is the difference between *contractual* type friendships versus a covenant?
- 5) What makes a good friendship? How does this come into play: “common passion + constancy + transparency = friendship”?
- 6) Looking back at your notes and scriptures on pages 3 and 4, how do you know if a relationship is questionable?
- 7) Lastly, Randy identified three basic types of relationships. Either discuss this as a group or consider it alone, but who are the people in your lives that fill these categories?
  - *People who mentor us* in many areas, family, ministry, attitude
  - *Lateral relationships*, people we share life with
  - *People we mentor and disciple* helping them grow