

1. Introduction

- a. David has just saved all of Israel by defeating Goliath—he is the hero and there are distinct reactions to this shepherd boy who is destined to become king
 - i. The people worship him as a hero
 - 1. The people sing a song about David's exploits (1 Samuel 18:7).
 - 2. It's wrong because David hadn't actually slain "his ten thousands."
 - 3. The point of what David has done is to point to the champion substitution.
 - 4. The people should have said salvation comes from the Lord.
 - 5. But the people were shouting the praises of one man.
 - 6. They worshipped the way of liberation instead of the means of liberation. They didn't recognize God saving them.
 - ii. Saul hates him as a hero
 - 1. The masses worship, the king hates.
 - 2. Saul thought that David made him look bad and it makes him constantly root for David to fail.
 - iii. Jonathan loves him as a friend
 - 1. He, like the others, is attracted to David's faith and heroism at first, but Jonathan let the hero humble him
 - 2. He gave David the robe and even his sword in an incredibly humble act of friendship
- b. What makes or breaks a life? Friendship and we see true "gospel friendship" through Jonathan and David

2. The Need for Friendship

- a. Saul becomes jealous and murderous towards David
 - i. Jonathan hangs around and keeps trying to make sure David stays alive
 - ii. The most dangerous time in David's life. He's young. He's vulnerable. And Saul is threatening him
- b. Jonathan makes a covenant (18:3)
 - i. This meant that David survives only because Jonathan is covering him
 - ii. In Chapter 20, the friendship is renewed--bookends of the most dangerous chapter of David's life
 - iii. His friendship with Jonathan contains the evil. He is bracketed by it. The troubles of David's life are bracketed by Jonathan's friendship.
 - iv. We need friends deep friendship in order to go through the difficult times of life
 - 1. Why is this so? Genesis 2:18—God, in paradise, declares it's not good for man to be alone.
 - 2. God says let us make man. Us? Why this? Because God is a God of relationship (i.e the Trinity—God's eternal relationship with the Son and Holy Spirit)
 - 3. This is why we can't forsake friendships or discount them

3. The Definition of Friendship

- a. There are at least 3 elements in the friendship with Jonathan and David (constancy, transparency and sympathy)
 - i. A friend who stays (constancy)
 - 1. They make a covenant with each other. (18:3) and again (20:42)—the covenants bookend the relationship
 - 2. This means the relationship isn't conditional (Proverbs 18 mentions this type of friendship: "24: A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.")
 - 3. Friendship isn't a cost benefit relationship where one person "uses" another when it's convenient for them but bails when the going gets tough
 - 4. Jonathan stays with Daniel in the toughest of circumstances even when it's not convenient for Jonathan (actually, it's dangerous for him to remain a friend)
 - ii. A friend who sees (transparency)
 - 1. Jonathan loved David as his *own soul*. (18:1) This is a striking image.
 - 2. It means that there wasn't one aspect of Jonathan's life that David didn't have access to and vice versa

3. It means letting a person into the deepest corners of your life. Giving the person access to your soul. Granting them a license to operate on your heart.
4. Jonathan sees David in his weakest moments.
5. He sticks and he knows all. He has an access to David like no one else had.
- iii. A friend who "sides" with you (sympathy)
 1. Sympathy= Having common passions. That's what the word actually means.
 2. 1 Samuel 20:41—they weep together (what is the same thing that makes you and someone else cry together?—that's sympathy)
 3. They are truly heading in the same direction.
 4. This gives Jonathan the ability to abdicate and not envy.
 5. They had nothing in common: one is the heir to the throne and the other a shepherd
 - a. God chose David and not Jonathan
 - b. Yet they both see the bigger picture—they both see God and loved him more than their present circumstance
 - c. Jonathan Edwards: your friendships are made better when loving God more than the friendships. "We should strive to lay religion in the foundation of all our friendships and subordinate love to each other for our love of God for so far as that happens your love will last forever. Death won't put an end to such a friendship nor can it put an end to friends' enjoyment of each other."

4. The Power for Friendship

- a. How do you get the power to do this?
- b. Letting someone look into your life, staying with them regardless of circumstances, seeing the same goal and vision as they do---it's incredibly difficult bordering on impossible
- c. How does Jonathan do it?
 - i. He says "The Lord shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever."
 - ii. He's putting the Lord between them because he knows this is the only way they will remain together---by God's grace alone!!
 - iii. Jonathan is taking enormous risk. (20:30 and 20:33—Saul hurls a spear at Jonathan)
 - iv. His life was forfeit when he sides with David. His risk of life gives David the chance to live
 - v. Why does he do this? Because he can admit "The lord has given us a victory"—the "Lord shall be between me and you"
 - vi. He can see beyond David to what God is doing—God gave the Israelites and Jonathan a person willing to give his life for others
 1. As a result of serving, Jonathan becomes a hero
 2. As a result of humbling, Jonathan becomes stronger
 3. Jonathan gave up power—released power
 - vii. Sound familiar? Another one comes along who isn't only willing to die for you but actually does it.
 1. John 15: 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you
 2. Jesus is vulnerable. He's constant. He stayed on the cross
 3. You can't be a forgiving and helpful friend until you see personally that God has forgiven you
 4. This is humbling and yet empowering. That God would stick to us. Like glue. We can't get away!