

4—Jonathan’s View of David—A Loyal Friend

Text: 1 Samuel 20



Memory Verse: “And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.”

(1 Samuel 20:17, ESV).



Influence People.”

Some will pass around inspiring anecdotes about demonstrable friendship which can bring us to tears. There is no shortage of information out in the world about what people think makes a good friend, or a bad friend.

In fact, that is a good question to consider as an ice-breaker: what do you think makes a good/bad friend?

Of course, God’s Word has a great deal to say about the topic too. We can look at it from all sorts of angles. We could study the many sayings in the book of Proverbs or Ecclesiastes about friendship (Proverbs 11:14; 12:26; 17:17; 18:24; 27:9; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). We could listen to what Jesus says about being a true “friend” (John 15:13-15). We could also read of Paul’s warnings to avoid “evil companions” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Yet, another way the Bible teaches is by showing us examples of godly characters who demonstrated powerful attributes of friendship. There may be no better example of loyal friendship than the example we see in David and Jonathan. Though their friendship was challenged, some of the qualities we see in them are exactly what we ought to be developing in ourselves if we are to be considered a loyal and spiritually-minded friend. Let’s take a look at some of the great attributes of friendship Jonathan shows toward his friend, David.

Discussion Questions:

1. Back up and consider some context. What had David just accomplished in 1 Samuel 17 and what does he bring with him to go talk to King Saul (17:57-58)? How does Jonathan feel about David after this encounter (18:1-4)? How does he express those feelings and what can we learn from this openness?

David: Through Other’s Eyes (Welch—LC 2020)

Google the word “friendship” and you will find all sorts of information. There are witty sayings like this one: “A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.”

There are silly memes that may make us laugh like the one that says, “We’ll be friends forever because you already know too much.”

When it comes to improving our friendships, some recommend books like Dale Carnegie’s “*How to Win Friends and*

2. Unfortunately, as we studied in our last lesson, Saul is jealous of David's popularity. How was Jonathan related to Saul (19:1)? Did Jonathan allow his father's ungodly attitude toward David to put an end to his friendship? What does Jonathan attempt to do to help the situation (19:2-7)? Do true friends "get involved" or avoid all controversy?

3. David realistically felt Saul was going to kill him (1 Samuel 20:1,3). Jonathan naively believes his father's jealousy has cooled off (20:2). However, what is Jonathan willing to do to protect and ensure the safety of David (20:5-13)? If we know of some plot or evil or information that would hurt our own friends should we keep quiet or speak up? Can you think of some examples where this might happen in real-life?

4. 1 Samuel 20:14-40 reveals David's concerns were valid and Jonathan finds a secret way to warn him of the danger. Though David must flee for a while, how does Jonathan feel about their friendship (20:41-42)? In a later encounter, what does Jonathan say to David to encourage him (23:15-18)? At what moments in our life, do we really need friends?

5. It hurts us when we lose our friends—to moves, changes in life, even death. How did David feel when he heard the news Jonathan had died (2 Samuel 1:26-27)? Are we impacting the lives of others in such a way we would be greatly missed if we were gone? What must we do to have friends who cherish and admire our friendships?

Key Lessons:

- A true friend is not ashamed to be your friend—friendship acts!
- The best friends are those who spiritually strengthen us.
- David and Jonathan make a pact to sacrificially protect one another—this is the type of friendship Jesus offers us (see John 15:13).

Additional Notes: _____