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Jonathan Loved David
1Sam. 18:1-5

As we go through life in our pilgrimage and sojourning I believe that there are important relationships that God will bring about which will be vital to our spiritual development.

- 1) My relation to God.
- 2) My relation to my wife.
- 3) My relation to my children.
- 4) My relation to a Jonathan.

Some Christians, as well as pastors teach and practice that you shouldn't get too close to anyone.

So they live lives that are superficial and shallow in the area of personal friendships and interaction, and I don't believe that is healthy or scriptural.

* I equally realize you should be discreet as well as wise in choosing your personal and close friends.

Jesus is our best example, He never isolated Himself but surrounded Himself with a group of men, as well as women, while abstaining from all appearance of evil and never partaking of any man's sin.

So friendships, are to be cultivated in each of our lives and it is from these friendships that Jonathan relations will come alongside our life to enrich us.

This is the friend that:

1. Will be there, when no one else is.
2. Endure when others fail.
3. He or she will be praying for you, when others condemn you.
4. Their presence is always a joy.
5. And the most amazing thing is, that they know how not to wear out their welcome or overstay their visit.

Jonathan was such a friend to David!

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

The love of Jonathan for David manifests three characteristics:

- I. The love of Jonathan was a pure love. vs. 1
- II. The love of Jonathan was a faithful love. vs. 2-3
- III. The love of Jonathan was a giving love. vs. 4-5

I. The love of Jonathan was a pure love. vs. 1-2

- A.** The occasion was immediately after David has kill Goliath. vs. 1a-b
 “Now when he had finished speaking to Saul.”
1. The giant slayer David had been brought to Saul by Abner. 1Sam. 17:57
 - a. Saul had been so impressed with David, that he wanted to recruit him for himself.
 - 1) The first five verses are still part of chapter 17 and would be a better division.
 - 2) Some divide it at verse four, others at verse five.
 - b. David came before Saul with the head of Goliath in his hand.
 2. The son of Saul, Jonathan was present listening intently to David speak to his father.
 - a. The name of Jonathan
 “Y@howwnathan” means Yahweh has given.
 - b. Names are often a reflection of a person’s character,
 - c. Jonathan as we will see is true to the meaning of his name.
- B.** The encounter initiated a life-long bond between Jonathan and David. vs. 1c-d

- * “the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”
1. The heart of Jonathan became one with David. vs. 1c
 - a. The suggestion or interpretation that this was a homosexual relationship between these two men is blasphemous, I reject to completely.
 - b. The soul is comprised of three things.
 - * The word soul “nephesh” identifies the entire person.
 - 1) The intellect of man.
 - 2) The emotions of man.
 - 3) The will of man.
 - c. The experience is described as initiated by Jonathan but the experience was mutual.
 - 1) The word knit “qashar” means to bind, to league together or come together, as a chain.
 - * The same word is used to describe the love that Jacob had for Benjamin. Gen. 44:30
 - 2) For the soul of Jonathan to be knit to the soul of David, there must be mutual interaction and acceptance.
 - d. Jonathan and David were both, men of God and of faith.

- 1) Jonathan had trusted God and by faith discomfited the Philistines. 1Sam. 14
- 2) David had confidence in God and by faith defeated Goliath. 1Sam. 17
- 3) When you knit something together, it is because of a likeness or commonness.
 - * Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3
2. The love of Jonathan for David was as for his own soul. vs. 1d
 - a. The love is described as for the good of David.
 - * It is repeated often. 1Sam. 18:1, 18:3, 20:17
 - b. The love was in respond to admiration of David.
 - * When David will lament over Saul and Jonathan's death, he responded in kind saying, "Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women." 2Sam. 1:26
 - c. The love was to care for David.
 - 1) David will be scared, depressed, discouraged but Jonathan didn't say, "You David, the giant slayer, I thought you were a man of faith." NO!

- * Jonathan said, "You shall not die." 1Sam. 20:1, 3
- 3) This kind of love puts a person in remembrance of who they are; David had been anointed King.
 - c. It is the love which desires to protect, provide for and persevere.
 - 1) Not because of what it can gain, for Jonathan had the most to lose. 20:31
 - 2) Not because it feels indebted but appreciates.
 3. The love of Jonathan would be a great comfort and encouragement to David in the coming years, when he would be expelled from the kingdom.
 - a. David would be kind of betrayed by his wife.
 - b. David would be separated from Samuel.
 - c. David would be denied the company of Jonathan's fellowship.
 - d. David would play as a madman, being fearful, before Achish.
 - e. David would caused the death of Abimelech.
 - f. David would be told by the Lord that the people of Keilah, that he just rescued, will deliver him up to Saul.
 - g. What a refreshment to have Jonathan come!

- 1) It is a love that comes alongside to strengthen when needed. 1Sam. 23:16
- 2) Jonathan would strengthen David's hand in God.
- 3) Jonathan never gets in the way of God nor tries to replace God.

Illustration

George Washington had this advice, "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation: for it is better to be alone than in bad company." #1800

Application

1. The Second commandment is that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Ex. 20
 - a. The source of love for our neighbor or fellowman is from our love for God.
 - c. If we do not understand this, then we will credit ourselves for the manner and extent of our love for others.
2. The Bible tells us that love works no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Rom. 13:10
 - a. The love of God that works through man goes beyond mere words to deeds.
 - b. The love of God that works through man brings glory to God.
4. The benefit of Jonathan relationships is for the benefit of both individuals.

- a. What a joy it is to see the many relations that I have seen men have with other men, causing them to grow, develop and mature in Christ.
- b. What a great benefit comes to the church body, when men are a witness to younger men of Jonathan and David friendship that last throughout their lives.
- c. Without doubt this kind of relationship existed between Paul and Barnabas,
- d. Barnabas was the only one who took Paul in, as he came to Jerusalem for the first time. Acts 9:27
- e. Certainly it existed between Paul and Timothy.
- f. Paul called him his beloved Son, and faithful in the Lord. 1Cor. 4:17
- g. Paul says, "I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state." Phil. 2:20
- h. Oh, that God would give to each of us a Jonathan and give us the wisdom to identify, appreciate and value them. And that I would be a Jonathan as well.
 - * The proverb says, "As **iron** sharpens **iron**, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. Prov. 27:17

The love of Jonathan was a pure love!

II. The love of Jonathan was a faithful Love. vs. 2-3

- A.** The faithful love of Jonathan came by way of his father Saul. vs. 2
- * “Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father’s house anymore.”
1. Saul at this point took David into his royal court on a permanent basis. vs. 2a
 - a. David had been his minstrel to alleviate his demonic episodes.
 - b. David had been caring for his father’s sheep at the same time.
 - c. David had killed the giant Goliath who defied the Israel and the God of Israel.
 - d. David would now be residing in the kings court.
 2. Saul at this point prohibited David from returning to his father’s house anymore. vs. 2b
 - a. Saul was the King of Israel.
 - b. Saul was the ruler and had absolute power over the people.
 - c. Saul was wanting to have capable people to surround him.
 - d. Saul wanted to have a man who knew God and had the blessing of God.
 - e. Saul knew David was that man.
- B.** The faithful love of Jonathan was based on a covenant. vs. 3a

- * “Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.”
1. The concept of covenant was the very heart relation of the people of Israel had with God.
 - a. God called Abraham to enter into a covenant with God. Gen. 15
 - 1) The word for covenant [b@riyth](#) has the root, which means cutting.
 - 2) This is demonstrated clearly when God had Abraham divided a number of sacrifice in two.
 - 3) In the midst of waiting, as the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram: and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him..
 - 4) Then God told Abraham about their 400 year bondage in Egypt and it’s judgment, deliver them and give them the land.
 - 5) Then Abram saw, as the sun was going down, saw a burning torch that passed between those pieces.
 - 6) And on the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, promising the land.
 - 7) God alone walked through the midst of it, He alone would be responsible to fulfill the promise

- b. The prophet Jeremiah is seen performing the similar and customary covenant ritual. Jer. 34:18
 - * “And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it.”
- 2. This is the kind of covenant Jonathan and David made with each other.
 - a. Remember the ones walking through the middle of the sacrifices were the one responsible to obey and fulfill the covenant.
 - b. Both Jonathan and David were pledging themselves to be responsible to the covenant.
 - 1) This was not a unilateral covenant.
 - 2) This was a bilateral covenant.
 - c. Jonathan and David’s was based on the agreement of their love for God, resulting in the love for each other.
- C. The love of Jonathan and David is seen throughout the record of Scriptures.
 - 1. Jonathan’ love was faithful.
 - a. Jonathan did not betray David in the opportune time when his father Saul

- commanded Jonathan and his servant they should kill David. 1Sam. 19:1
- b. Jonathan being faithful informed David, his father wanted to kill him and to be on guard. 1Sam. 19:2
- c. Jonathan faithfully defended David before his father Saul, reminding him of how David risked his life to defeat Goliath and he rejoiced over it. 1Sam. 19:4-5
 - * He would be sinning against innocent blood, Jonathan told his father!
- 2. Jonathan’s love was true not just to David but to his family. 1Sam. 20:14-16
 - a. “Between your descendents and my descendents, forever.” 1Sam. 20:42
 - b. Mephibasheth, Jonathan’s son was sought out by David. 2Sam. 9:1
 - 1) Mephibasheth was restored all of his fathers goods. vs. 7
 - 2) Aided in direction for future. vs. 9-10
 - 3) He was honored by David, sitting at his table all the days of his life.. vs. 11
- 3. Jonathan’s love most important was always based on truth.
 - a. Jonathan told David, that he would tell him what he conversed and observed about his father. 1Sam. 19:3

- b. Jonathan told his father not to sin against his servant David. 1Sam. 19:4
 - 1) David had not sinned against Saul.
 - 2) His works had been good towards Saul.
- 4. Jonathan entreated his father Saul, in love by saying, “Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?” 1Sam. 19:5d
- 5. Jonathan would not compromise his love with the evil of his father, even to the point of endangering himself. 1Sam. 20:9
 - a. He was insulted. 1Sam. 20:30
 - b. He was physically endangered. 1Sam. 20:33

Illustration

Robert Louis Stevenson said, “So long as we love we serve. No man is useless while his is a friend”
 * Benjamin Franklin said, “Be slow to choosing a friend, slower in changing.” #1800 both

Application

1. We never know how those new life-long friendship might be initiated.
 - a. It could be at church.
 - b. It could be through a friend.
 - c. It could be through the friendship of your children.
 - d. It could be through a men or woman’s study?

- e. Whatever the circumstances, if you are walking with God and attempting to be all that God tells you to be, He will be directing and guiding your life.
 - 1) “A man’s **steps** are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?” Prov. 20:24
 - 2) “The **steps** of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.” Ps. 37:23
- 2. The protection that a Jonathan relation offers is not just against others but against self.
 - a. They notices weak areas and prays for you.
 - b. If they sees no change in your life, then he confront you, exhorting and admonishing you, in the Lord.
 - c. They will not partake with you in any sin but plead with you to turn from your sin.
 - d. They will reprove and rebuke you and if need be, they may even sever fellowship from you, that you might come to your senses, because they loves you.
 - e. They will be an example of Christ, when they are walking with you, praying for you or by waiting for you to return to Christ.
- 3. A Jonathan type love gives strength, it binds up and under girds one in need,
 - a. These type of friends are always around when needed, they always let you know that you are not alone.

- b. They will be with you in times of crisis and danger.
- c. They will be a source of wise counsel to you when you are down and discouraged.
- d. They will withhold nothing in their power to help you.
- e. They will suffer insult, slander and shame for you.
- f. They will never advantage themselves over you or betray you.
- g. They will even risk their life for you.
- h. Their value your love for them and hopefully you value their love for you.
- i. Whenever all forsake you and you are at your lowest point, they seek you out and strengthen you in God.
- j. They are not shocked by what they hear or see in moments of weakness, they are ever fixed, without compromising with sin.
- k. They let you know that their love will not change for you whether you are poor, wealthy, up or down.
 - 1) “A man who has **friends** must himself be friendly, But there is a **friend** who sticks closer than a brother.” Prov. 18:24
 - 2) Because they are always around you, more than family!

The love of Jonathan was a faithful Love!

III. The love of Jonathan was a giving love. vs. 4-5

- A. The gesture of Jonathan towards David communicated heart-felt affection and his delight in blessing him. vs. 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.”
- 1. Jonathan stripped himself of his robe and gave it to David to communicate he was one of the royal court. vs. 4a
 - a. The word for robe [l@'iy](#) means a garment worn over the tunic by men of rank.
 - 1) Jonathan was the son of King Saul.
 - 2) Jonathan was a brave courageous warrior.
- b. David was being acknowledged by Jonathan as his equal.
 - 1) Jonathan was humbly submitting himself to David, even though he was a mere shepherd.
 - 2) Jonathan was declaring his service to David
 - 3) Jonathan was overjoyed to bless David.
 - 4) Jonathan most likely knew that David was to be the next king, in place of his father at this point.

2. Jonathan gave his armor, sword and bow to David for his protection. vs. 4b-c
 - a. The love of Jonathan was practical, not just in word but in deed.
 - b. Jonathan was providing for the preparation of David, as he would become the armor-bearer of his father Saul.
 - 1) David had nothing but a shepherds sling.
 - 2) Jonathan was not insulting David nor minimizing God but was merely being practical.
 - c. Jonathan knew that his father and he, were the only ones who had swords, when they fought the Philistines. 1Sam. 13:22
 - 1) Yet God had given Jonathan and his armor bearer victory over the Philistines.
 - 2) God also had given the victory over Goliath to David.
3. Jonathan gave his belt to David. vs. 4c
 - a. The word for belt “chagawr” means a girdle to bind oneself.
 - 1) The girdle would hold together the garment and hold the word.
 - 2) The girdle would serve to gird up the robe up from the legs, so as to be free to move around to fight or

- work, without being encumbered, tangled or tripped.
- b. Jonathan would be to David as a girdle to strengthen and under gird him as a friend.
 - 1) Rejoice with David in his promotion as he destroyed Goliath. 1Sam. 18:1
 - 2) Interceding for David, when his father would want to kill him. 1Sam. 19:2
 - 3) Jonathan would encourage David, telling him he would not die, at the hand of his father. 1Sam. 20:1-2
 - 4) Jonathan would do whatever David desired to find out his father Saul’s intentions. 1Sam. 20:4
 - 5) Jonathan would suffered insult and shame for David at the hand of his father. 1Sam. 20:30
 - * “Then Saul’s anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, “You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother’s nakedness?”
 - 6) Jonathan never was corrupted against David, even when he knew

- it meant forfeiting his own enthronement. 1Sam. 20:31
 * “For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die.”
- 7) Jonathan would risk his life for David. 1Sam. 20:33
 * “Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.”
- 8) Jonathan was deeply loved and valued by David. 1Sam. 20:41
 * “As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so.”
- 9) Jonathan would seek out David in the wilderness, when David was at one of his lowest points and strengthened him in God. 1Sam. 23:16
 * “Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.”

- 10) Jonathan would tell David he would be the next king of Israel and he would be next to him. 1Sam. 23:17
 * “And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.”
- 11) Jonathan was telling David that his love would be the same, whether he was in the wilderness on the run or the King of Israel.
- C. The loving affection of Jonathan to bless David was also expressed to David in his service to the king. vs. 5
1. David was an obedient soldier, in the service to the king. vs. 5a-b
 * “So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely.”
 - a. David was a courageous, as he had been in fighting Goliath.
 - b. David defended the kingdom throughout the land.
 - c. David conducted himself wisely “sakar” prudent, circumspect with great understanding.
 - 1) This is a repeated trait of David. 1Sam. 18:14, 15, 30

- 2) The reason being, the Lord was with David.
2. David was promoted by Saul. vs. 5c
* “And Saul set him over the men of war.”
 - a. Saul could see David was a born leader.
 - b. Saul knew David was led by God.
 3. David was a great enthusiasm and joy to all. vs. 5d
* “and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.”
 - a. David was accepted “yatab” pleasing to the people.
 - b. David was also pleasing to the servants of Saul.

Illustration

It has been said, “Some people make enemies instead of friends because it is less trouble.” #1800
* An old friend is better than two new ones. #1800
* When we lose a friend we die a little.” #1800

Application

1. Let me ask you some questions?
 - a. Do you value your friends, that God has brought into your life or do you think they are very fortunate to know you?
 - b. Are you a friend, ready to serve at all times or do you merely express it in word?

- c. Are you using your friendship to serve or are you a user of friends?
 - d. I have seen this much in ministry
2. I have been very fortunate to have so many good close friendships with so many people in the Lord.
 - a. Some closer than others but valuable friends.
 - b. Others real close, even closer than family at times.
 - c. But either way, you must be a person of character, having integrity and be honorable in all your relations with friends.
* Jesus said, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.’ Matt. 7:12
3. Let me give you some mistakes people make and end up ruining their close valuable friendships.
 - a. They begin to let their guard down and start acting carnal, not as spiritual.
 - 1) Having said that, I am not speaking about being phony or self-righteous.
 - 2) Don’t loose your sense of hummer, you can be godly and have fun, really!
 - b. They begin to cross boundaries that they should not and loose respect for each other.
 - c. They believe gossip, slander and false information, without ever verifying it with the person.
 - d. I have seen this often with people who have attended a church for years with their

families and they throw away 15, 20 years of relations and go to another church, to start all over again,

- 1) Now, I am not speaking against people who move away due to a job transfer, buying a home or when there is a legitimate Scriptural reason.
- 2) But, I am speaking about those who, in the midst of the problem or ordeal, rather than being friends and listen to the facts, they become critics and sometime even enemies!
 - * “For “He who would **love** life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.” 1Pet. 3:10
- 3) Shakespear said, “Love is not love, that alters when alteration it finds.
 - * Oh, that God would give to each of us a Jonathan relationship as well as being a Jonathan to someone.

The love of Jonathan was a giving love!

Conclusion

The love of Jonathan for David manifested three characteristics:

- I.** The love of Jonathan was a pure love!
- II.** The love of Jonathan was a faithful love!
- III.** The love of Jonathan was a giving love!