

# ***“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy***

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## **Study # 6 – Faithful Friendships**

**1 Samuel 18:1-4**

### **I. THE CONSIDERATION OF A LOWLY FRIENDSHIP**

#### **A. DAVID REJECTED BY THE HOUSE OF JESSE**

- David wasn't even invited to Samuel's feast. 1 Sam. 16:11
- David was held in disdain by his oldest brother. 1 Sam 17:28

#### **B. DAVID ACCEPTED BY THE HOUSE OF SAUL**

- On the very day he is rejected by his older brother, David gains a new brother! Note: "soul-brothers!" 1 Sam. 18:1
- To suggest even the hint of a homosexual relationship is in complete defiance of the whole of Scripture and evidence of a person's own twisted mind. cf. Lev. 18:22-24; 20:13-16; Rom. 1:24-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:8-11

### **II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY FRIENDSHIP**

- Jonathan and David were kindred spirits. Their friendship was based upon the godly characteristics they both shared.

#### **A. AN UPWARD FIDELITY**

- It was following David's courageous confrontation of Goliath "*in the name of the LORD*" (1 Sam. 17:45), that Jonathan initiated the relationship. 1 Sam. 18:1-4
- Jonathan also possessed a great trust in God's ability.
  - The first references to Jonathan focuses on his courage and confidence in the Lord. 1 Sam. 13:2-3; 14:1-15
- Common faith is a foundation stone for godly relationships.
  - "*Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*" Amos 3:3
  - "*what communion has light with darkness?*" 2 Cor. 6:14
  - "*Evil company corrupts good habits.*" 1 Cor. 5:11; 15:33
  - cf. 1 John 1:3-7; Eph 5:11

#### **B. AN INWARD HUMILITY**

- Although David received great honor, he continued to walk in great humility. Note: "*Who am I?*" 1 Sam. 18:18; 2 Sam. 7:18
- While Jonathan had a legitimate claim to the throne, he had a clear understanding that the Kingdom did not revolve around him. He gladly supported David's ascent to the throne. cf. 1 Sam. 23:17

#### **C. AN OUTWARD LOYALTY**

- Even after being threatened with death both David (1 Sam. 18:11) and Jonathan (1 Sam. 20:32-34) remained loyal to Saul.
  - cf. 1 Sam. 24:1-8; 26:6-12

### **III. THE CONSTITUTION OF A HOLY FRIENDSHIP**

#### **A. THE INITIATION OF COVENANT**

- Jonathan, the King's son, reaches out to David, and established the covenant relationship. 1 Sam. 18:1-4
- This covenant becomes the basis of their friendship.
  - cf. 1 Sam. 20:17; 20:42; 23:18

#### **B. THE APPRECIATION OF COVENANT**

- Even after Jonathan's death, David continues to be faithful to the vows he made. cf. 2 Sam. 9:1; Ecc. 5:4-5
- David will come to know the fullness of covenant in his relationship with God. cf. Ps. 89:3-4, 20-29, 34-37; 2 Chr. 7:18
- David speaks of God's "loving-kindness" (*Heb.* = *hesed*)  
*Hesed* is a covenant word denoting the attitude of loyalty and faithfulness which both parties are to maintain toward each other; i.e. "loyal, steadfast, covenant love"
  - cf. Ps. 136:1-26 (each verse) – "*His hesed endures forever.*"

### **IV. THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF A HEALTHY FRIENDSHIP**

#### **A. A WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE** 1 Sam. 18:4

- Jonathan adorns David with his vestments and armament, thus, stripping himself to clothe David! cf. Jn. 15:13-15
- Jonathan's actions demonstrate the lengths to which he would go to establish and maintain friendship. cf. Php. 2:1-11

#### **B. A FAITHFULNESS TO DEFEND** 1 Sam. 19:4-5

- At the risk of injury and loss, Jonathan defended the name and reputation of his friend, David. cf. 1 Sam. 20:30-34
- "*there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*" Pr. 18:24

#### **C. AN OPENNESS TO ACCEPT** 1 Sam. 20:1-3

- Jonathan saw David at his highest and his lowest, yet didn't feel compelled to deliver lectures or rebukes.
- "*A friend loves at all times*" Prov. 17:17; cf. 1 Cor. 13:7

#### **D. AN EAGERNESS TO ENCOURAGE** 1 Sam. 23:16-17

- Jonathan came to David in hours of need, and strengthened him in his faith. cf. Prov. 27:9,17; Ecc. 4:9-12
- Being a true friend means that there is liberty to speak the truth in love! cf. Prov. 27:5,6; Eph 4:15; Jer. 9:5