

Theme: Jonathan was a faithful friend to David, putting God's call and David's needs ahead of personal ambition and cultural expectations.

I. Intro - Le Chambon-sur-Lignon

- A. French community - primarily Huguenot since 1600's
- B. WWII they made the whole town a haven for Jews
- C. Hid Jews from Nazi's in home, fields
- D. They did this as led by their pastor
- E. Some were even arrested and sent to concentration camps for resisting the Nazi's this way
- F. One of only two towns recognized as Yad Vashem by Israel for helping so many - at such great danger
- G. Today - similar spirit is seen in Jonathan, friend of David

II. The Depth of Friendship

- A. Jonathan loved David as he loved himself
After David had finished talking with Saul, **Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself...** ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David **because he loved him as himself.** 1 Samuel 18:1, 3

And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, **because he loved him as he loved himself.** 1 Samuel 20:17

- 1. Other are statements are made too, but these are the strongest
- 2. This is the 2nd commandment - but few do it!
- 3. Jonathan literally loved David as much as himself

- 4. We will see this borne out in his sacrificial actions

B. David loves Jonathan deeply

David ... bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—**but David wept the most.** 1 Samuel 20:41

I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. 2 Samuel 1:26

- 1. David deeply loves Jonathan - wept the most
- 2. David grieves deeply at Jonathan's death
- 3. David loves Jonathan like his brother
- 4. Jonathan was very dear to David

C. True friendship is a bond of deep affection - loving another as our own self

III. The Nature of Friendship

- A. It was a friendship based on their common faith
So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "**May the Lord call David's enemies to account.**" 1 Samuel 20:16

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." 1 Samuel 20:42

- 1. We can - and should! - be friends with those who do not share our faith
- 2. So please do not leave here wanting to forsake friends who do not share your faith!

3. But we must also have close friends who do share our faith
4. Because our faith should lie at the core of who we are, we should find many of our deepest relationships with those who share that faith
5. If we do not find ourselves building relationships with other believers, we must ask why this is true
6. There are enough believers to find deep friendships with some of them - unless we are not wanting to

B. It was a covenant friendship

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. 1 Samuel 18:3

So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David... ¹⁷ And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself. 1 Samuel 20:16–17

The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. 1 Samuel 23:18

1. Idea of covenant (a binding oath) is repeatedly stressed in this account (also in use of hesed - covenant love)
2. This was a covenantal friendship because of the political/dynastic issues, but all true friendships must have a binding, lasting nature about them.
3. This is not a throw away friendship - it is a binding, lasting relationship that could not be broken without great anguish and tears
4. This idea is critical in our throw away culture. We routinely dispose of old items - and relationships - for shiny new ones. But true friendships can not be treated this way.

5. True friendships are built on covenant loyalty and therefore have the freedom to grow, deepen and thrive over time.

C. It was a friendship of sacrifice

1. Jonathan's friendship with David angered Saul

(Describe what is happening at the feast, and how Jonathan is helping David)

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? ³¹ As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!" 1 Samuel 20:30–31

- a. Saul is very angry at Jonathan - he uses crude SOB type language

- b. Source of this is Jonathan's friendship with David

"Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" Jonathan asked his father. ³³ But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. ³⁴ Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the month he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David. 1 Samuel 20:32–34

- a. Jonathan holds fast to David - he defends him
- b. Saul tries to kill Jonathan - he is stark raving mad
- c. Jonathan refuses to betray his friendship with David
- d. Jonathan is grieved deeply over Saul's evil conduct
- e. This obviously deeply hurt his relationship with his father - but he remained with his father to the end!

2. Jonathan's friendship with David cost him the throne "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." ¹⁸ The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. 1 Samuel 23:17-18

- a. David was God's choice as the next king
- b. This was what Saul refused to accept, and why he was playing the Game of Thrones
- c. But Jonathan fully embraced this - even though it meant he would not be the next king. Rather than playing the Game of Thrones, Jonathan bows before Yahweh and says "Your will be done!"
- d. Jonathan foreshadows Christ who refuses to play the Game of Thrones, and cries out "Not My will but yours be done!" Jonathan's act secured temporal success for Israel, but Jesus' secures eternal salvation for His people!

D. True friendship is a covenantal relationship that is willing to sacrifice personal gain for the good of the other, that they may flourish in God's call for them.

IV. The Result of Their Friendship

A. Their friendship strengthened David in God

And Saul's son **Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.** ¹⁷ "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." ¹⁸ The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. 1 Samuel 23:16-18

- 1. David in one of the darkest moments of his life
- 2. It seems that all is lost and he is a forsaken fugitive

- 3. Right then Jonathan finds David & strengthens him
- 4. Jonathan goes out of his way, takes risk, to find and help his friend David
- 5. Jonathan is the fulfillment of the friendship proverbs
A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 18:24

- a. True friendship shines brightest in the darkest moments of life
 - b. True friends are a reflection of Christ, Who pursued us despite our sin, sacrificing all to restore us to God
- B. A true friend is there for you in the darkest moments of life, pointing you to God as the source of strength you need.

V. Applying the Word

A. Do I have friends like this?

- 1. We were create in God's image - relational
- 2. When we are redeemed we are set into the church
- 3. We are not made for isolation but for relationships
- 4. Days will come when we will need a Jonathan
- 5. Do I have a friend/friends like this - or am I isolated?
- 6. Can I name some people who would find me in the dark cave to help me find strength in God?

B. Am I a friend like this?

1. Usually if I don't have friends like Jonathan it is because I have not been one myself!
2. This is the biblical principle of we reap what we sow
3. But there is much that would prevent us from being like Jonathan (and Christ!)
 - a. Our sin wants us to use others, not sacrifice for them
 - b. Past hurt make us withdraw from others
 - c. Our culture discourages the time required to build these type of friendships - both on a weekly basis and over years
4. Am I willing to sacrifice for others?
5. Am I willing to stay with a friendship across the years - through good and bad? Or do I run or cut people off when they fail or times get tough?
6. Who am I going to begin to befriend like this?

C. A prayer for faithful friendships

A Faithful Friend

1 Samuel 20 (1 Samuel 20:12-17)

May 8, 2016

Prayer

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; fellowship; community

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.... ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. 1 Thessalonians 3:12–13

Then Jonathan said to David: “By the Lord, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? ¹³ But if my father is inclined to harm you, may the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away safely. May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father. ¹⁴ But show me unfailing kindness like that of the Lord as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, ¹⁵ and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family—not even when the Lord has cut off every one of David’s enemies from the face of the earth.”

¹⁶ So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord call David’s enemies to account.”

¹⁷ And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself. 1 Samuel 20:12–17