



Key Takeaway: Trust needs to be a foundation of your friendship

Key Passages: 1 Samuel 18,19, 20

INTRO

Today, we're beginning a new three-week series called "I'll Be There For You." That phrase might be familiar to you because it might remind you of a very popular sitcom, *Friends*. One of the most common themes in tv and movies is friendship. People becoming friends is one of the most commonly told stories. Friendship is something that is important to us. Friendship is something that is so important because God can do some amazing things through friendships. During the series, we are going to be looking at three amazing stories from the Bible where the kingdom of God broke through in people's lives because of friendship. The reward of great friendship is the kingdom of God breaking through into people's lives. One thing that you need for any friendship to work and to last is complete trust. And trust in a friendship is developed through being vulnerable and accountable. There is no way to do either of those if there is no level of trust within the relationship.

I want you to imagine that you are in your favorite restaurant eating with your best friend. You two are sitting there having a great time and in walks your friend's crush. Your friend has had a huge crush on this person for a long time. Your friend finally decides to go up to their crush and to tell them about their feelings towards them. Right before your friend gets up, you notice they have a huge piece of food in their teeth. Do you tell your friend, or do you ignore the issue because it would be hilarious? If there is complete trust between you and your friend, I would imagine you would let them know. You would not want your friend to be embarrassed.

Today, we are going to be looking specifically at a friendship between David and Jonathan. A lot of you probably think of the king when you hear the name David. David did indeed end up becoming Israel's king, but we are going to be looking at a time before David was king. David and Jonathan became very close when David was appointed Saul's war general. Saul was a very powerful king and was the first king of Israel. One of Saul's main goals was to defend Israel against enemies, especially the Philistines.

The other friend in this story was a man named Jonathan. Jonathan was the son of the king, Saul. Not only was he Saul's son, but he was his eldest son which means he would have tons of special rights and privileges. He would also be the one to inherit his father's belongings. Being the eldest son of the king was quite the honor.

In 1 Samuel 18, we get a glimpse into how special of a bond Jonathan and David had. In verses 3-4, we see absolute trust in a friendship.

³And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.
-1 Samuel 18:3-4 NIV

The first thing we see is that Jonathan made a covenant with David. A covenant, simply put, is an agreement. However, a covenant is something serious. A covenant is something to not be broken. A covenant is something that you would only make with someone whom you trust. A covenant is not just some promise that you make in the moment. A covenant can last beyond generations. A covenant is a big deal. You would never make a covenant with someone whom you do not trust.

The second thing he did in this passage that showed his complete trust in David was giving his robe, tunic, sword, his bow, and even his belt to David. These belongings are things that represented who Jonathan was. Not only did he give away his belongings, but he also gave away part of his identity. Remember that Jonathan was the son of King Saul, so his robe was a royal robe. Jonathan not only made a verbal commitment to David but he made a physical commitment to him by giving his things away.

TENSION

When we continue to read the next several verses, we see that whatever mission Saul sent David on he was very successful. Verse 5 tells us that Saul gave David a high rank in the army. David became someone who everyone loved. In verses 6-7, we see the tension start to creep into this story. The men along with Saul and David returned home from war and the women began to chant and were very excited. They started to dance and sing these lyrics:

*“Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands.”
-1 Samuel 18:7b NIV*

Now as you can imagine when they started to chant that David had become more successful, Saul began to get jealous. He developed this deep anger. He began to keep a close eye on David and he made sure to watch what he was doing. Simply put, Saul felt his power was being threatened. Verse 12 actually tells us that he was afraid of David because the LORD was with David and had departed him. We see that David continued to have great success because the LORD was with him.

When we continue to read in 1 Samuel, we see that Saul came up with a plan to kill David. This is where it gets interesting because we remember that Jonathan, the son of King Saul, had made a covenant with David. However, there was still pressure on Jonathan to be faithful to his dad. If Jonathan decided to side with David, then he would be committing treason and would be betraying his own family. However, if he chose his family, he would break the covenant he had with David, and he would disobey God. Jonathan could see that God was moving through David and not through his father, Saul.

TRUTH

We read in 1 Samuel 19 that Saul told Jonathan about his plan to kill David. Since Jonathan and David had become so close, Jonathan couldn't just sit back and watch this all unfold. So, Jonathan warned David about his father's plan. Not only did Jonathan tell David about this, but he also put a plan into action to try and figure out what is going on. We get to see his plan in verses 3-5:

³I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out.”

⁴Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. ⁵He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?”

-1 Samuel 19:3-5 NIV

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

downloadyouthministry.com