

# DAVID THE FRIEND

## 1 Samuel 20

**“You can choose your friends but you can't choose your family”.**

Have you ever said this ? Have you ever heard someone else say this? Or nodded in agreement.

Friends are interesting, some people have loads and some people have just 1 or 2 close friends. Those with loads of friends may have friendships but often those friendships don't go deep. Those with just a select few have deep friendships but miss out perhaps on the many people out there that could add something to their life.

Then you have different types of friendships

Do you have a friend that you may not see that often or contact but when you meet up it feels like you haven't been apart?

Do you have a friend that when your phone rings you know that's your evening gone?

Do you have a friend that surrounds themselves with furry creatures?

How about friends that could lead you astray?

We are all unique so that brings all types of friendships.

But what kind of friend are you?

What can we learn from David in scripture about friendship?

This is the second of a four part series on the life of David. Last week Pat talked about David the boy, this week we look at David the friend and especially the close relationship between David & Jonathan.

In this particular case I believe David chose his friends and he chose his family so to speak.

It all began after victory over Goliath. This young shepherd boy was catapulted to fame for simply standing up for God and allowing Yahweh to use him. David stood in the gap for his entire people not for his own fame or for the honour of

his country and king but for the honour of his God. In human terms he had no chance a fatality waiting to happen but he stepped out in faith not in the knowledge of what he can do but in the knowledge of what God can do.

After this episode Saul wanted to talk with David

**1 Sam 18:** Soon after defeating Goliath David was brought to Saul and after a chat David must have made a massive impression because **1 Sam 18:1** says that Jonathan loved him as he loved himself and they became one in spirit.

**1 Sam 18:3** Jonathan soon made a covenant with David and then gave David his robe, tunic, his sword, his bow and his belt

Remember Jonathan was next in line to the throne and he'd probably only seen David a couple of times but the heir to the throne had seen something in David and made a covenant with him. Imagine making a promise and a commitment to someone you know. This friendship involved a real commitment. Jonathan & David loved each other as friends, and there are some people today, who interpret the friendship with 21<sup>st</sup> century cultural spectacles on, but David, when he laments the death of Jonathan calls Jonathan my brother **2 Samuel 1:26** which puts this relationship into context.

Saul kept David close and wanted to kill him. Saul was driven by jealousy and fear. He already has been told by the prophet Samuel that God has rejected him and his days were numbered.

**18:12** Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with David. David was successful at everything - all Israel & Judah loved him. **18:16**. I think Saul knew how this story was going to end .

Saul's daughter Michal falls in love with David **18:20** meaning Jonathan's sister marries David and David in a sense chose his family or his in laws. Would you choose to have someone like Saul as your Father In Law? How many of you with Father In laws, had a spear thrown at you by him before you got married? I would walk away from the situation and probably never return.

**18:28** Saul was falling to pieces he saw that the Lord was with David.

Jonathan was told by his own father that he wanted to kill David, **19:1**.

Would Jonathan defy his own father, his king? Yes because Jonathan cared for David, he had made a covenant with him, he was David's brother in law.

Jonathan had the courage to stand up for his friend.

We get from chapter 20 big indications that Jonathan expects David to become king: A) 20:13 May the Lord be with you as he has been with my Father  
Jonathan sees that God was once with his father in his kingship and wants that now for David.

B) Jonathan was next to be king and yet in **20:14** Jonathan asks David to show him unfailing kindness like that of the Lord as long as I live, so that I may not be killed. In those times and throughout the ages new kings would kill off anyone who could threaten their reign. Jonathan recognises that David, one day will be king and he could have all of Saul's family put to death.

Do not ever cut off your kindness from my family!

David & Jonathan once again make another covenant

May the Lord call David's enemies to account (Like Saul)

**20:30** Saul snaps and says some really hurtful and terrible things to his Son

Saul actually says something that is true if David is not killed Jonathan will never become king in **verse 31**

But Saul's jealousy and sin became too much and he even tries to kill his own son  
Jonathan **1 Sam 20:33**.

Jonathan goes back to the field where David was hiding. He could have killed David then and there, ensuring riches and kingship, power and authority. He could have told Saul where David was. The temptation for many would be immense but I don't think this was the case with Jonathan. I think here is a man with integrity who values God over selfish ambition. He could see God's hand on David and in a way Jonathan was a bit like John The Baptist - he knew he would get lesser as David would become greater and he was prepared to make way.

At the end of our story David bowed 3 times to Jonathan out of respect before they wept together. 20:41 actually states that David wept more.

This was the last time that Jonathan & David met

Jonathan was to die in battle with his dad and his 2 brothers on Mount Gilboa.

But this wasn't the end of the story or the covenant that was made between them. David wanted to stay loyal and faithful to the friendship he once had with Jonathan.

**2 Samuel 9** David, now king could slaughter Saul's & Jonathan's descendants but he keeps the covenant he made with Jonathan and welcomes Mephibosheth who was crippled in his feet. He was to eat at the king's table.

To Conclude

Jonathan & David's friendship was one that was incredible and very different to what we call friendship today. This was not a social media type of friendship.

Their friendship was one of lasting commitment even through hardship.

Their friendship was one of faithfulness, they remembered each other and were loyal.

Finally their friendship had a spiritual dimension, it was rooted in God.

All these traits can be found in a relationship with Jesus

Jesus said about his followers; No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

Jesus has made a deep commitment to us by going to the cross to deal with our sin. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13) and that's exactly what Jesus did for us.

Jesus is faithful; The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

So what about us? A relationship is a 2 way thing and God keeps his promises he's ready for a deep everlasting relationship with you but where are you with God? Are you spending time with him? Does God's relationship with you filter through to your friendships with others? Let's learn from David and Jonathan's friendship and let it inspire us in our relationships and friendships.

Amen