

Message Series: Friendship
Week 3: How To Be a Friend
Pastor Peter Smith, 2-28-16

“Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel.” -Prov. 27:9 NIV

“The sweet smell of incense can make you feel good,
but true friendship is better still.” CEV

Illustration: Rhino & the Buffalo bird

Story of Jonathan and David (as found in Chapters 18-23)

I. Jonathan was a Companion

“After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father’s house. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan 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 Sam. 18:1-4

Review 9 characteristics of a friend:

1. A friend is someone who **knows** you
2. A friend is someone who **loves** you.
3. A friend has things in common with you
4. A friend protects you
5. A friend makes you **happy**
6. A friend helps you in times of trouble
7. A friend is loyal
8. A friend brings out the best in you

9. A friend is interested in your spiritual well being.

*Jonathan was all these things to David. He was his friend.

2. Jonathan was a Peacemaker (1 Sam. 19:1-7)

Vss. 1-4:

“Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David and warned him, “My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. I 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. Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father...”

Vss. 6-7:

“Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: “As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death.” So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.”

Jonathan gave his dad 2 reasons why he shouldn’t kill his friend David:

1. David showed no opposition to the king &
2. David had done good for Saul, at times even risking his life (1 Sam. 19:4-5)

True friends are Peacemakers with God.

A. By praying

Ez. 22:30: “I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.”

B. By telling our story / sharing our faith

1 Peter 3:15: “but in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

3. Jonathan was a Protector (1 Sam. 20:1-42)

How we can protect our friend:

- Reputation
-from character assassination, gossip (a sin!)
- Personal safety (dreams, etc.)
- Spiritual journey

4. Jonathan was an Encourager (1 Sam. 23:15-17)

“Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness...And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David...and encouraged him in God.

Here's the Question: How did he encourage him?

- Did he beat up the King?! No
- Did he take the matter to Facebook?! No
- He said, “Remember God”

Thus he said to him, "Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also."

He brought perspective to David.

- **Don't forget what God said about your life!**
- **David, YOU WILL BE KING!**

We need to learn how to encourage our friends:

- When they get cancer, we need to sit with them
- When they get a divorce, we need to cry with them
- When their company lays them off, we need to buy them some groceries!
- When everyone is saying bad things about them, we need stand up for what God has said about them!

- When they are running from God we need to pray for them, accept them, and love them!

Someone said,

“True friends are like ivy that adheres to the tree in its decay.”

- A false friend can appear a true friend when all is well, but when you are down, a true friend shows his colors.

Consider this:

- A man or lady can become what their friend makes them
- When God allows friendships to begin, we have a responsibility to be the best friend to those who need us and those whom we need.
- Throughout the years of wandering and running from Saul, David had Jonathan who took seriously his responsibility as a friend.
- Does your friend have someone equally concerned about him or her today?

Next Step This Week:

1. Pray for my friend
2. Encourage my friend
3. Invite them to Friend's Day