

## *Jonathan, a Friend of Faith*

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**Introduction:** Who are your best friends?

- A. These choices often will reveal your values as well as your future! (**Prov 27:17**)
  - 1. Wise men know this! (**Prov 22:10-11**)
  - 2. We most of all need to be a friend of God and of Christ. (**Jn 11:11; 15:14-15; Jas 2:23**)
  - 3. Do not let your friends come by accident. Parents can have a great influence.
- B. What made king David the great man that he was? (**1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22**)
  - 1. David had much opposition and turmoil in his life.
  - 2. Early in his life he made a decision to walk by faith. What follows is no accident!

### ***I. The Making of a Friendship --- Two Great Stands of Faith***

- A. Men of faith will have occasions in life where their faith stands out. (**Jas 2:18**)
  - 1. To live by faith will cause you to go against the crowd.
  - 2. When this happens it is a characteristic of your life rather than an occasional choice to be different. (**Rom 12:2**)
- B. Jonathan's faith caused him to be placed at great risk. (**1 Sam 14:1,8-10**)
  - 1. All Jonathan needed to know was the will of God!
  - 2. This stand of faith would cause a victory for the people of God. (**1 Sam 14:14-15**)
  - 3. Sadly, Jonathan had a faith that his father could no longer understand. Often they would now be in conflict. (**1 Sam 14:39, 43-45**)
  - 4. Jonathan's faith caused him to have the right kind of influence! That would make a difference in his choice of friends.
  - 5. What would a young person do who live by faith today?
- C. David also placed himself at risk against Goliath.
  - 1. Did Saul understand this kind of faith? No, he had turned to a self-centered "faith" which was no faith at all. (**1 Sam 17:32-37**)
  - 2. David even let Goliath know who was to get the glory. (**1 Sam 17:45-47**)
  - 3. If Saul had this kind of faith the later bitterness and envy would have not risen up to destroy him. (**1 Sam 18:7-8**)
- D. Why did David and Jonathan become friends? (**1 Sam 17:57-18:1**)
  - 1. Here were men of faith and because of that they were men of principle.
  - 2. They made a commitment to the genuine good towards each other that no force on earth could move. (**1 Sam 18:3-4**)

### ***II. The Testing of Their Friendship***

- A. In time every friendship based on faith and principle will be tested.
  - 1. Anything built on real faith will stand the test. (**1 Jn 5:4-5**)
  - 2. There are other kinds of friendship that will fail under test or compromise faith for the sake of friendship. Neither of these are worth having!
- B. Saul's irrational hatred of David provided a great test.
  - 1. Saul became in many ways a "spear thrower." (**1 Sam 18:10-11**)
  - 2. Have you ever had to go against your own parents? (**Mat 10:37**)

3. There are great prices to pay when you go against the irrational bitterness of a father, especially when he is the king.
- C. Jonathan was loyal to David because the friendship was based upon faith.
  1. He boldly spoke the truth to his father because he was a man of principle!  
**(1 Sam 19:4-6)**
  2. A man of principle will defend a friend when he is right and rebuke him when he is wrong. **(Prov 27:6,9,17)**
  3. Real friends will not follow another's personal vendetta!
- D. Jonathan warned David in spite of Saul.
  1. Even after a successful first rebuke, Saul went back to pursuing David.
  2. Saul tries to entice Jonathan by the prospect of the kingdom being his one day.  
**(1 Sam 20:30-31)**
    - a. The kingdom was not Saul's to give. **(1 Sam 13:13-14)**
    - b. Friendship cannot be bought with things!
    - c. Many parents make this mistake.
  3. In the second rebuke Saul tried to kill his own son. **(1 Sam 20:32-34; 22:8)**
    - a. Men of principle will stand up against the spear throwers.
    - b. The pain would be relieved because Jonathan did what was right and would not remain silent. May we have more men like this in the church!

### ***III. The Loss of a Great Friend***

- A. There came a time where they had to separate. **(1 Sam 20:41-42)**
  1. There was no selfish interest here. This had to be done!
  2. Jonathan knew that the Lord would be with him.
- B. They had one final meeting. **(1 Sam 23:15-18)**
  1. What would you tell your best friend if you knew it would be your last?
  2. There was no regret over the kingdom because Jonathan had put God first.
  3. What would your friend strengthen you in? What is first in your life?
- C. The death of Jonathan
  1. Jonathan died with his father in battle. **(1 Sam 31:6)**
    - a. Jonathan loved his father and willingly died with him.
    - b. A man of faith will always stand where he should.
  2. David remembered both Saul and Jonathan in "the Song of the Bow."
    - a. David never gave in to be bitter like Saul. **(2 Sam 1:18,23)**
    - b. Jonathan loss was a great loss to David. They were separated only for a while. **(2 Sam 1:25-27)**
    - c. Will you have a great reunion one day?

***Conclusion:*** May each of you find this kind of friendship in your life.

- A. You should have that kind of friendship in your marriage. **(1 Pt 3:7)**
- B. We surely ought to have it among our brethren. **(Jn 13:34-35)**

There is no friend like an old friend  
 Who has shared our morning days,  
 No greeting like his welcome,  
 No homage like his praise. - Oliver Wendell Holmes

**Any questions or responses are welcome**

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