

Sunday Morning Message

November 1, 2015

David and Jonathan

Topic – Friendship

Text – Proverbs 18:24; 1 Samuel 18:1 – 4; 1 Samuel 19:1 – 7; 1 Samuel 20:1 – 17, 41 – 42; 23:16 – 18

Congregational Reading – Proverbs 18:24

Introduction

This week, I have been thinking a lot about friends and family: about the people that I love.

Illustration – A few weeks ago I found out that my dear friend and former pastor, Rick Wedemeyer, was not feeling well, and had gone to the hospital only to discover that he had a large mass behind his stomach. This past week, the doctors have confirmed that the tumor is, in fact, cancer (a type of lymphoma). The doctors believe that the cancer is treatable, but I suppose when you are dealing with cancer there are really no guarantees that they will be able to stop it. Pastor Rick has already been through a couple of serious health issues in the past decade or so, including a debilitating stroke that has left him partially immobile, and, believe it or not, a spider bite that put him in the hospital for many weeks. My heart aches for my friend Rick and his wife and family who are all also very dear to me.

It's a funny thing about friends. I have had friends growing up, but I have lost contact with most of them. I have had friends from Bible college, but with the exception of Steve Lot and Dr. Bowen, I don't really see or even communicate with any of them, at least not on a regular basis. I have had many friends from the churches that I have been a part of, but I don't really talk to too many of them, either. There have been people from this church who had one time were my friends, but have left for various reasons, and are no longer very friendly.

It is not very often that someone comes along that becomes a friend to you, and then continues to be a friend to you for your entire life. Pastor Rick and Kim Wedemeyer (Also - Ted and Camille Stahl) have been good friends to Cindy and I for more than twenty-five years.

Good friends and a loving, close family are more valuable than gold. As I get older, I am learning to appreciate the value of having people in my life that truly love me.

Illustration – My dad and I were talking the other day about retirement. We agreed that retirement was not about a place, but about people. I want to be near the people I love, and around the people that love me.

The Bible has a lot to say about friends. I preached a message once called "*Amnon Had a Friend*", which encouraged us to choose the right kind of friends.

I also preached a series of messages on the Book of Ruth. The name "Ruth" means friend, and Ruth and Naomi were certainly good friends to each other.

The Book of Proverbs also has a few more verses that instruct us regarding friendship:

"The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends." (Proverbs 14:20)

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." - (Proverbs 17:17)

"Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour." (Proverbs 19:4)

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." - (Proverbs 27:6)

"Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel." - (Proverbs 27:9)

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." - (Proverbs 27:17)

Good friends are hard to find, but they will prove to be an extremely valuable asset in life.

The friendship we have in the Lord Jesus who laid down His life for His friends is the greatest example we have in the Scripture, but the friendship of Jonathan and David is a close second. Jonathan and David shared a very rare friendship, one that even endured beyond their earthly lives.

I The Initial Attraction (1 Samuel 18:1 – 4)

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

David would naturally be drawn to Jonathan initially because he was the son of the king; but what caused Jonathan to be attracted to David.

- 1 He Loved His God
- 2 He Loved His Country and King
- 3 He Had Enough Guts To Do Something About Goliath

Note – in 1 Samuel 18:4 when Jonathan took off his robe and gave it to David, it was a prophetic picture of the fact that David would someday be the king. It also reminds us that we need to surrender our lives and submit to the kingship of the Lord Jesus.

Excerpt from Message "Amnon Had a Friend"

I Consider Their Convictions (love for God)

Is your friend a friend to God, or a friend to the world.

Jesus said:

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." - (John 15:14)

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." - (James 4:4)

Is he/she saved?

Is he/she surrendered?

To the will of God

To the Word of God

To the Spirit of God

Is he/she serving?

Is he/she separated?

Is he/she a soul winner?

Observation – people that are truly a friend to God will be a friend to you as well. (Illustrate - Paul and Silas)

II Consider Their Compassion (love for others)

Does he/she have a love for others? Do they put others first?

Cornelius called his friends so that they could be saved.

The woman at the well called her friends.

Is he/she a giver or a taker?

Illustrate – Do they share?

Stingy on Lazy Town

Seagulls on Finding Nemo

Will he/she be there for you when you need him?

Pastor Rick

Note – sometimes the person that you do not enjoy to be around so much is a better friend. Because they will be there for you when you need them.

Will he/she tell you what you need to hear – not what you want to hear?

The Bible says “faithful are the wounds of a friend”

Observation – you will avoid good friends when you are in a backslidden condition, and will choose instead to run with people who are in the same spiritual condition that you are in. (Illustrate – David and Jonathon were good friends)

III Consider Their Character – (love for self)

Will he/she violate their convictions when it is convenient for them?

Will he/she cease being compassionate toward others when it no longer benefits them?

Illustrate – “D” at the flea market – “He did it” – blamed me for lighting the fire.

Are they lazy?

Are they always late?

Will they let you down when you really need them?

Will they yield to temptation in the heat of the moment? Can they say no to temptation?

Are they chameleons?

Can they keep their mouth shut or do they love to share a juicy story?

“Jonadab was a subtil man” – he was sneaky

Note – I am not saying that if a person you know lacks character that you should not be a friend to them; but you do need to be very careful that you do not allow them to influence you. (Illustrate – Ananias and Saphira – influenced each other to do wrong; Paul and Timothy – Paul influenced Timothy to do right in areas of character)

II An Indivisible Attachment (1 Samuel 19:1 – 7)

Jonathan remained a friend to David even when it didn't benefit him. He was the king's son, and the king wanted David dead. Jonathan was not only going against his family, he was also committing treason. It is easy to be a friend to someone when everything is going well, but when the fair weather has turned stormy will your friend still be your friend.

Turn to 1 Samuel 20:1 – 17; 41 – 42; 23:16 – 18

III An Enduring Affection (2 Samuel 1:25 – 27; 9:1 – 8)

David's love for Jonathan did not die at Jonathan's death. He continued to love those that were close to Jonathan as well. When you genuinely love someone, you will not only love them, but you will also try to love the people that they love.

Conclusion

By the way – Jonathan and David were both saved, and are now both in Heaven, and I imagine their friendship is even stronger today.

You and I are not wealthy or poor based merely upon the amount of money we have in the bank. True value is not determined by the car we drive, the house we live in, or the possessions that we own. You are truly rich if you have just a few good friends and a family that loves you.

People who truly love you are worth far more than their weight in gold.