



(Like David) A Woman After God's Own Heart **#3 Relishing Friendships**

I. David's intimate friendship: His relationships with Jonathan (1 Sam. 18)

- A. Saul began to hate David. He made a total of six attempts to kill David. (1 Sam. 18:8-15, 29; 19:1, 9-11, 20:30-33)
- B. Saul's son Jonathan has an independent spirit (1 Sam. 14: 24, 43) and in spite of his father, God connected his heart with David's. In this intimate friendship...

"In the middle of the craziness and madness, the meanness and hate, David experienced a most unusual love in Jonathan's friendship." (Eugene Petersen)

 - 1. Jonathan was willing to sacrifice for his friend. (1 Sam. 18:4, 20:4)
 - 2. Jonathan was a loyal defended of David before others. (1 Sam. 19:4-5)
 - 3. Jonathan was willing to give David freedom to be himself. (1 Sam. 20:41) (to express his deep friendship)
 - 4. Jonathan was a constant source of encouragement for his friend. (1 Sam. 23:15-16) (Adapted from "Leap over a Wall")
- C. A word about Jonathan's love (Hebrew word "aheb"). This is not the word used for intimate, physical love. Nor is it the word normally translated "to know" meaning to have sex with. "Aheb" implies some political overtones, it "denotes more than natural affection however, deep and genuine this may have been." (The Expositor's Bible, p. 707)
- D. Their covenant: (literally, "spirit was bound with spirit")

Jonathan took off his robe and gave it David as a symbol – transferring his own status as heir to David.

At this critical moment in his life, David needed an intimate, caring friend whose heart beat with his!

II. David's encouraging friendships

- A. The time frame: David is a broken man. He is consumed with his guilt over his relationship with Bathsheba. His family life has been shattered (bitterness, incest, rape and murder). His son Absalom is in active rebellion against his dad (2 Sam. 15:1-4)

- B. As David flees Jerusalem in fear of Absalom, he encounters some encouraging friends (2 Sam. 15).
1. Itta the Gittite (2 Sam. 15:18-23)
 - a. A man from Gath (where Goliath came from)
 - b. David urges him to go back
 - c. Itta declares "I stand with you. By life or by death, I'm here."
 - d. He takes his men and their families and joins David in exile.
 2. Zadok, the Levites carrying the Ark and Abiathar (2 Sam. 15:24-29)
 - a. They grabbed the Ark and attempted to flee the city with David.
 - b. David knew the Ark belonged in Jerusalem and told them to take it back – "go back, you are needed there."
 - c. They agreed "we'll do whatever you want, we're available."
 3. Hushai (2 Sam. 15:30-37)
 - a. In reverence and deep compassion for his friend David, Hushai displays his grief by tearing his coat and covering his head with ashes. He is screaming "all this is wrong. You shouldn't be fleeing." You are the true king. My heart is broken, I care about what you're going through.
 - b. Although David is deeply moved by his friend's empathy, he sends him back to Jerusalem to serve as a spy for David's cause. He readily agrees to serve David that way.

At this devastating moment in his life, David needed encouragement.

III. David's sustaining friendships – the mighty men of David (2 Sam. 23 and 1 Chron. 11)

At the end of David's life, he writes his last song (2 Sam. 23:1-7) and then there is a listing of the mighty men who had served David so valiantly. (2 Sam. 23:8-39 and 1 Chron. 11:10-17)

- A. The top three (vs. 8-17)
1. Josheb-basshebeth (Adino) (vs. 8)
Chief of the Captains – slayed 800 men at one time.
 2. Eleazar (vs. 9-10)
With David at Pasdammim – a great victory against the Philistines.
 3. Shammah (vs. 11-12)

Courageously held his ground in a field of lentils for a great victory.

B. Commanders of the thirsty (vs. 18-23)

1. Abishai

Killed 300 men with his spear.

2. Benaiah

Victorious against the men of Moab, a lion and a key Egyptian.

C. The remaining 32 mighty men (vs. 24-39)

D. Their commitment to provide for David's every need is demonstrated in the illustration given in vs. 13-17. His musings were their command!

At the end of his life David, recounts the incredible deeds done to sustain him and his kingdom. His dearest friends were "there for him" even when he didn't ask!

IV. So what? Some thoughts about deepening your friendships

A. Make your friendships a priority. It takes times, attention and effort to have a meaningful friendship.

Prov. 17:17 "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

B. Cultivate transparency. Learn to express yourself, your needs, your deep thoughts, etc.

Prov. 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Learn to express your care (2 Sam. 1:26)

C. Remember, that real love is something we do – not just feel. A look, a word of encouragement (spoken and written), a touch, an act of kindness, a gift and prayer support.

D. Don't just seek out those who can care for you. Look around, who needs you?