

190623 King David and a Heart of Friendship

Read 1 Samuel 23:14-18. You may want to give a little bit of context as to the main characters (Saul, David and Jonathan) and what has been going on up until this point – the last meeting between Jonathan and David

Vs. 14-15 – we read that David is in a desert place, a barren place on the run – this is physically but also metaphorically; spiritually and emotionally. **When you've been in a place like this, which of the following have been the most support for you: Your personal relationship with God, family, Christian friends, non-Christian friends, the church, other?**

Vs. 16. Jonathan went to David. (Friends show up). **When you are in a difficult place, do you leave the door open for friends to show up? If they did show up would you appreciate it or want your own space?**

David left the door open for Jonathan to find him. **What responsibility do we have to 'keep the door open' and what responsibility do our friends have to see we are in trouble and step in?**

Vs. 16. He helped him find strength in the Lord. Friends point to the saviour they don't have to be the saviour. **In what ways can we as friends help other people find strength in the Lord – think practically.**

J did not try to solve everything, he brought him encouragement. **How do we know when to help bring practical solutions and solve people's problems and when to help them to solve their own problems? What are the dangers here?**

Vs. 17. "Do not be afraid." Friends offer perspective not platitudes. J reminds David of the truths and promises over his life. **What are some Bible truths you've found it helpful to remind friends of when they've been in times of trouble?**

Vs. 18. Made a covenant (friends are not fickle). We will all have had friendships evolve over years. **Is there a set of 'rules' or advice for allowing this to happen without causing hurt to people?**

Vs. 18. J went home - this was not an unhealthy inseparability! **Why are boundaries important in friendships?**

What about those of us who feel like we don't have close friendships or have been hurt by friendships in the past? Ben gave 3 areas we can turn too. For each one give testimony as to how we can learn from each and how they have helped us historically.

1. Jesus. He knows what it is like to be lonely, let down and betrayed. We can turn to Him
2. The Holy Spirit is described as our counsellor/comforter/advocate. We can call on Him to help us
3. The church – not as a building or faceless institution, but as the people of God.