



Forever Friendships
1 Samuel 23:15-18
October 20, 2019

David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. - **1 Samuel 23:15-16**

I. AN OASIS IN THE DESERT

- David retreated to the wilderness of the Judean desert. Saul searched for him, but Jonathan found him (vs. 16).
- The biblical writer reminds us that Jonathan, David's friend, is also Saul's son (1 Sam. 14:1-5, 43-46; 18:1-5).
- Faithfulness is the key to David and Jonathan's friendship. A shared faithfulness to God, and then, as an outgrowth of that commitment, faithfulness to one another (1 Sam. 20).
- Jonathan comes to David in his distress, and there he puts David's hand in God's hand (vs. 16).

II. FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIPS IN THE LORD

- Friendships are based on faithfulness, humility, and self-sacrifice. Jonathan and David's had all three (1 Sam. 18:1-5; Matt. 18:1-5; John 15:12-17).
- Friendships are based on truthfulness as well. True friends speak into each other's lives. Acquaintances find offense when confronted truthfully, even if it is done in love (1 Sam. 20:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:33-34; Eph. 4:15-16).
- Christian marriages and friendship should go together. As should Christian families, partnerships, church relationships, etc. There is strength in friendship (Eccl. 4:9-12).

III. THE SHADOW AND THE REALITY

- Christian friendships are vital, but nothing compares to the friendship we can have with Christ (2 Tim. 4:16-18).

KNOW: Friendships matter, and they are vital in the home, the church, and in our daily discourse. We are stronger with Christian brothers and sisters around us, and life is better.

DO: Cultivate Christian friendships. Extend them outward.

Suggested Reading:

True Friendship: Walking Shoulder to Shoulder by Vaughn Roberts
(LifePoint Library #248.4 ROB)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read 1 Samuel 23:15-18

1. Talk about the backdrop to the story of Jonathan and David if you know it. If not, look quickly at 1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7; chapter 20).
2. What was the bond that held Jonathan and David together? How did that bond survive given all the obstacles?
3. Why are Christian friendships so important?
4. How do we cultivate Christian friendships? What steps can we take?
5. What do true Christian friends do when they see sin in their friend's life? How does a Christian respond when a friend confronts them?
6. How do we "speak the truth in love?" What considerations must be taken when confronting a friend?
7. How will you seek, or strengthen, your friendships in the Lord?