

# THE LIFE OF DAVID

SHEPHERD. WARRIOR. POET. KING.

## WEEK 3: FEAR OR FRIENDSHIP

### Today's Text: 1 Samuel 18:1 – 1 Samuel 23

#### 1. GODLY FRIENDSHIPS ARE ABOUT COMMITMENT. SELFISH RELATIONSHIPS ARE ABOUT CONTROL

- **Read 1 Samuel 18:1-9**

The obvious difference between the way Jonathan related to David, and how Saul related to David, is helpful for us. Jonathan covenanted to David, which meant that he was fully committed to David come what may, whereas Saul wanted to control David, and keep him in his life for his own purposes. The first relationship was entirely self-less, while the other was entirely selfish.

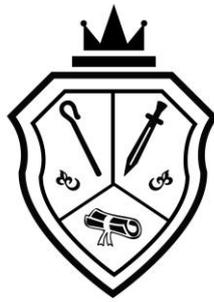
#### 2. GODLY FRIENDSHIPS INVOLVE COSTLY GIVING. SELFISH RELATIONSHIPS FOCUS ON GAINING

As the king's son, Jonathan had far more to give David than David could give back to him, and yet Jonathan gave freely anyway. If we are honest with ourselves, this contrasts with almost all of our relationships today. We do not tolerate relationships that do not give back at least the same effort that we put in, at least not on a long term-basis. We measure relationship importance by how much of a need it fulfils for us, except at times when we are moved by compassion to extend help and support during a crisis. But even help during a crisis can be selfishly motivated, in that we love to play the role of saviour for people, but we are less interested in walking a long-term difficult journey once the crisis has passed.

#### 3. GODLY FRIENDSHIPS CELEBRATE OTHER'S WINS. SELFISH RELATIONSHIPS ARE CRIPPLED BY COMPARISON

Jonathan loved David, and was not threatened by his military success. Saul, on the other hand, was jealous of, and threatened by, David's success, even though David was fighting for the same team. Because Saul was so self-centred, he was unable to celebrate David's success, and his constant comparison to David turned into bitter emotion.

- ❖ **Q: What is the difference between someone who wants to control relationships, and someone who is absolutely committed to the relationship?**



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❖ *Personal Reflection Q's:*

- Think about a relationship in your life where you have to be in control in order to be happy within the relationship.
- In which relationship do you feel the most uncomfortable when the other person is off doing their own thing, without you knowing about it, or being included?
- What is it that you gain from being in a relationship with this person?

❖ Q: Is it possible to be in a relationship where you are being controlling, but yet still manage to be “nice” enough to them, in order to keep them in that position of submission? Explain your answer.

❖ *Personal Reflection Q's:*

- How many of your relationships do you consider to be “costly”?
- Out of the list of costly relationships, how many of them do you think are actually Godly? (Note: Not all costly relationships are Godly. Some are birthed out of the idolatry of people-pleasing/fear of man, but others are Godly because it is a choice to give, knowing that the other person is unable or unwilling to give back).

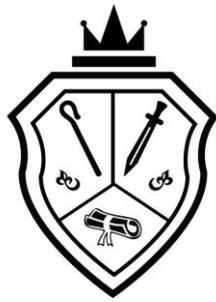
❖ Q: Why is it an indication of an ungodly relationship/attitude, when you are unable to celebrate the other person’s “wins” in life? (Personalize this: Think about the one person that with whom you do not to celebrate when good things happen to them because it irritates you or makes you feel jealous, or perhaps you feel indifferent or a level of disdain about their successes).

❖ Q: What difference do you think it would make to Christian marriage relationships, if couples would commit to and serve one another without an agenda, rather than just agreeing to compromise (and selfishly get half their needs meet on their own terms)?

## 4. GODLY FRIENDSHIPS STAND UP AGAINST OPPOSITION. SELFISH RELATIONSHIPS CENTER AROUND PEOPLE-PLEASING

• **Read 1 Samuel 19:1-7**

Jonathan risked his life to dissuade his father, Saul, from killing David. Saul initially agreed, because in the moment, it felt as though Jonathan had a good point. But the minute that it no longer suited Saul’s emotions, he changed his mind and went after David again.



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## 5. GODLY FRIENDSHIPS REQUIRE LISTENING AND TRUSTING. SELFISH RELATIONSHIPS USE INFORMATION AS POWER

- **Read 1 Samuel 20:1-4**

Though Jonathan had witnessed his father relent from his decision to kill David, he still listened intently to David, and trusted him despite the contradictory report. His love and trust for David redirected his own decisions.

## 6. GODLY FRIENDSHIPS PUT OTHERS FIRST. SELFISH RELATIONSHIPS ISOLATE OTHERS

- **Read 1 Samuel 20:30-34**

Saul's toxic relationship with David began to seep into his other relationships. Because Jonathan stood in the gap between Saul and David, Saul was willing to kill Jonathan as well. Jonathan on the other hand was willing to stand by David regardless of the cost to himself.

## 7. GODLY FRIENDSHIPS ARE AFFECTIONATE IN WORD AND ACTION

- **Read 1 Samuel 20:40-42**

The friendship was so important to both David and Jonathan that in the most difficult time, they made the time and effort to express their love and appreciation to one another. It is vital for us to express our appreciation and love for one another, because it brings strength and encouragement.

## 8. GODLY FRIENDSHIPS STRENGTHEN FAITH

- **Read 1 Samuel 23:16-18**

When David was worn-out and struggling to continue, Jonathan strengthened him with the truth. He encouraged David with the covenantal promises of God. God had promised that David would be king, and that even though things looked impossible, God would be faithful, and therefore David could be strengthened by that truth. We should be encouraging our friends in the truth too.

- ❖ **Q: Why does a Godly relationship require really listening and trusting the other person? When last did you trust another person because of your relationship with them despite the opposing circumstances? How did this work out?**
- ❖ **Q: Which relationship is God speaking to you about, that requires some changes, in order for it to become godlier? Write down their name and then consider and list the ways in which God is asking you to obey: by putting them first, being affectionate in thought or deed, strengthening them in the faith? Share this with your group so they can hold you accountable.**