

THE FORMATION OF A FRIENDSHIP 1 SAM. 18:1-5

Introductory thoughts:

- This is a narrative section – no commands. Therefore, my sermon will also be descriptive.
- This friendship is juxtaposed alongside of Saul's jealousy, hatred, rage....
- There are 3 characters: Saul David Jonathan
- And 2 very different reactions to David!

I. This friendship was formed suddenly / quickly

1 Samuel 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

This brings up many questions:

- Are there steps (etc.) to developing friendships?
- Can I be anyone's friend?
- Can friendship happen later in life?

Proverbs 18:24 A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

— C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

“Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art.... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival.”

— C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

“I have no duty to be anyone's Friend and no man in the world has a duty to be mine. No claims, no shadow of necessity. Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art, like the universe itself (for God did not need to create). It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival.”

— C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

“...Lovers are normally face to face, absorbed in each other; Friends, side by side, absorbed in some common interest. Above all, Eros (while it lasts) is necessarily between two only. But two, far from being the necessary number for Friendship, is not even the best. And the reason for this is important....In each of my friends there is something that only some other friend can fully bring out. By myself I am not large enough to call the whole man into activity; I want other lights than my own to show all his facets... Hence true Friendship is the least jealous of loves. Two friends delight to be joined by a third, and three by a fourth, if only the newcomer is qualified to become a real friend. They can then say, as the blessed souls say in Dante, 'Here comes one who will augment our loves.' For in this love 'to divide is not to take away.'”

— C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

“Friendship arises out of mere Companionship when two or more of the companions discover that they have in common some insight or interest or even taste which the others do not share and which, till that moment, each believed to be his own unique treasure (or burden). The typical expression of opening Friendship would be something like, "What? You too? I thought I was the only one.”

— C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

“The very condition of having Friends is that we should want something else besides Friends. Where the truthful answer to the question "Do you see the same truth?" would be "I see nothing and I don't care about the truth; I only want a Friend," no Friendship can arise - though Affection of course may. There would be nothing for the Friendship to be about; and Friendship must be about something, even if it were only an enthusiasm for dominoes or white mice. Those who have nothing can share nothing; those who are going nowhere can have no fellow-travellers.”

— C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

II. This friendship was formed unequally!

1 Samuel 18:1 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, **that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.**

1 Samuel 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, **because he loved him as his own soul.**

1 Samuel 20:17 And Jonathan caused David to swear again, **because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.**

1 Samuel 20:41 And as soon as the lad was gone, **David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.**

2 Samuel 1:26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: **thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.**

On a personal level I have struggled with this question: A friend that only I pursue, call, visit, keep up with...**should I continue to pursue him?**

This friendship:

- **Was unequal**
- **Unequal in who initiated it / really could initiate it!**
- **Unequal in who maintained it!**
- **Unequal in who needed it the most**
- **Not unequal in love & feelings**
- **Not unequal in the long run**
- **Not unequal in the commitments → David most assuredly followed up**

III. This friendship was formed formally

1 Samuel 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant (וַיִּקְרָת... בְּרִית), because he loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 20:8 Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant (בְּבְרִית) of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father?

1 Samuel 20:14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:**1 Samuel 20:15** But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. **1 Samuel 20:16** So Jonathan made (וַיִּקְרָת) a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies. **1 Samuel 20:17** And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

1 Samuel 23:17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth. **1 Samuel 23:18** And they two made a covenant (וַיִּקְרָתוּ... בְּרִית) before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

Thoughts:

- Friendship is certainly always about more than mutual hatred
- Friendship is about more than mutual fun
- Friendship is about shared ideas, interests, passions
- Friendship is about each other's future's
- Friendship is about each other's well-being

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

Proverbs 27:10 Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, **forsake not**; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.

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

IV. This friendship was formed concretely & positively

1 Samuel 18:4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

Real friendship is inevitably elevating!