

Remnant Life Church
January 25, 2015

“Maintaining True Friendships” I Samuel 18:1-4

- Last week we looked at establishing true friendship
 - Someone who helps or stays with you in times of trouble
 - Provides emotional and physical support when you need it
 - Who will fight to protect you and your reputation
 - Someone who cares about your spiritual growth
- This morning – how do we maintain those true friendships?
 - **Read** Hallmark cards we’ll never see
- Examine how one man maintained his friendship with a man he could have easily been jealous of, hated, been intimidated by, felt threatened.
- Instead he was loyal and true so that their friendship continued even after his death

READ - I Samuel 18:1-4

- Background
 - The time is following the death of Joshua and the 325 years of the judges bringing us to approx. 1050 BC
 - Saul becomes the first king of Israel (13:1) and will reign for 40 years (as will David, as will Solomon)
 - David is introduced to Saul prior to the battle where Goliath is killed when he is called to come a play music for Saul and ease his torment (16:14-23)
 - **Vs 18** – “warrior” - was this a prophetic statement about David?
 - David goes to Saul who embraces him initially but then comes to hate him
 - obeying God can sometimes appear to others to be unwise
 - God does not promise us that to obey Him means we will not encounter obstacles, difficulties or even danger
 - But He promises not to forsake or leave us (Heb 13:5)
 - Once David kills Goliath God immediately shows him favor with everyone – except Saul (18:12, 29)
 - Saul’s oldest son’s name is Jonathan (14:49 – oldest of 3 sons, 2 daughters)
 - Jonathan is next in line to be king according to the right of succession
 - These things did not always go that way and many came to the throne through other means (take-overs, assassination, etc...)
 - He is older than David as he already is fighting in the army (14:1-14; approx. age 20)
 - Jonathan embraced David as a brother and loved him as much as he loved himself (18:1)
 - This is also how Jesus said we are to love
 - The greatest commandment (Matt 22:34-39)

- Jonathan had every reason not to love David
 - He would immediately be seen as a threat to his throne
 - What would the people say?
 - Would they love him and therefore give him the power?
 - What would the other nations say of this great leader who was not the king?
 - His reputation would be at stake

- What enables friendships to last or be maintained?
 - (18-3) – Jonathan makes a covenant relationship with David
 - A covenant is binding
 - We see this in the covenants that God made with Abraham, Moses and yes, even David also the New Covenant that we live under
 - A covenant is honored in spite of the circumstances and what might change between the parties
 - David cares for Mephibosheth – (2 Sam 9)
 - Turn to **I Samuel 20** – David and Jonathan’s arrangement
 - See the components of this friendship and how we maintain our important relationships today
 - The Friendship is Loyal
 - Jonathan says to David whatever you want me to do, I’ll do. (v 4)
 - Many words describe loyalty including dependable
 - Whatever is going on the friendship remains
 - The difference between a friend and an acquaintance
 - In his time of physical danger David turned to one who he could depend on and trust
 - Are you loyal and dependable to your word?
 - Or is your word conditional and dependent on what is going on?
 - Loyalty can often mean sacrifice and inconvenience
 - Jonathan put himself at risk for their friendship
 - The Friendship is Accountable (v 10-13)
 - David says to Jonathan you judge me and see if I deserve what is happening to me
 - Accountable is not a word that people readily embrace
 - It means I am allowing you to judge me
 - You can call me on what I say and what I do
 - Speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15)
 - Speaking honestly at all times and in all things
 - This is part of the reason why God does not mean for us to be alone
 - We need one another to walk a walk of integrity
 - This is even true in our society
 - The police and the courts help us to stay accountable to our laws

- What is the invariably the first thing that happens in the times of great natural disasters or power outages? - Looting
 - Whenever there is an opportunity presented true friends will always act with integrity toward the other
 - The Friendship is Christ-Centered
 - (v 12-15) Everything that David and Jonathan were concerned with centered on the Lord (4x)
 - You cannot have a covenant relationship with someone who is not a Christian
 - Friendship but not a covenant
 - You cannot be a true friend in covenant relationship unless you are Christ centered
 - This keeps what you do right and pure
 - It allows you to strengthen one another
 - It is following the example that Jesus lived as a covenant friend to those in His life
 - He was loyal
 - He was accountable and offered accountability
 - He was completely focused on His Father
- Do you have these relationships in your life? If not, why not?
- Are you this type of friend to someone? If not, why not?
- It begins with the most important relationship (friendship) you can have
 - If you have that friendship perhaps it is time to renew or strengthen it with a recommitment