



→ Lesson 6, 1 Samuel 18 & 20

This week we are studying the friendship between Jonathan & David. This friendship emerges at a crucial point in the life of David and the unfolding of God's redemptive plan for the nation of Israel. Friendship is central to our human experience. Our friendships deeply impact our personal history in ways that are essentially irrevocable. The Gospel transforms friendship in remarkable ways. The human approach to friendship is largely focused on self-protection and self-placement. The Gospel calls us to approach friendship vastly different, entirely more hopeful, and costly. The Gospel confronts a number of sins in our life as we engage in friendship...the sin of self-protection and the sin of self-placement. In the story of Jonathan and David we see the Gospel at play between two men who are deeply committed to a godly, intimate, and honest friendship at the heart of their identity as individuals made in the image of God.

Who are your friends that have impacted you the most? What qualities does your friendship possess that leads to that impact?

What are qualities you try to emulate in your friendships?

What is a time you have been let down by a friend?

Listed below are descriptions of the sin of self-protection and sin of self-placement. Which camp do you find your self in – and why?

- **Sin of Self-Protection**- engaging in relationships in a way that risks nothing personal and offers nothing intimate or honest. To be friends with someone with no real hope that intimacy is possible and that the Gospel is limited to eternity and cannot transform humans here and now.
- **Sin of Self-Placement**- Using friendship as a means to an end -- to numb the loneliness of life or to better posture your self. This ignores the necessary commands of the Gospel to "murder the self" and look to the cross as a model for relationships and love in our human condition.

Read I Samuel 18 & I Samuel 20...Focus on 18:1-5 & 20:26-34

In 18:1-5 we see the friendship of David & Jonathan emerge.

Why is this friendship so unlikely considering what the future of David holds and what the future of Jonathan should hold?

What does it say in vs. 1 about the manner in which Jonathan engaged in relationship with David?

Explain in your own words what it would mean to “knit your soul” to another? Explain what it would mean to love another as though you were loving your own soul?

Compare the reaction of Jonathan in these verses to the reaction of Saul to David in vs. 8-16.

How does the Gospel transform us from being Saul into being Jonathan?

Go back to your sin of self, whichever one it was...how does the Gospel confront this and make you new in this area of your life? If it has not yet, why not? What must become true of you if you are to love in the manner of Jonathan?

In 20:26-34 we see the confrontation between Saul and Jonathan surrounding David. It is one thing to love a friend when they are present, but it is another thing entirely to love a friend when they are not present and face conflict; even conflict that could lead to death.

How does Jonathan’s commitment to David & commitment to Lord’s vision for friendship prepare him for this interaction?

What exactly was Jonathan dying to in this moment, as he turned from his father to face the truth?

What dreams and ambitions must he himself have been wrestling through in order to act in this kind of integrity?

Is this kind of grace and commitment possible on our own?

In light of the study of this friendship of Jonathan and David, what friends come to mind that you have that type of deep relationship?

Are there friends that come to mind that you would like to have that type of friendship? What are practical steps you can take to be vulnerable and authentic to pursue that goal?

How can your small group pray for you and hold you accountable in the next steps that you need to take?



Miss this message? Listen to it online at parkcommunitychurch.org and download additional small group studies to go along with the Heart: A Study of David series.

PARK
COMMUNITY CHURCH

© 2009 Park Community Church | 1001 N Crosby St | Chicago, IL 60610

parkcommunitychurch.org