

### Great friendships require great commitment

- David and Jonathan had an immediate bond
- But this bond was tight and was not superficial, it went deeper than just finding commonalities
- They pledged their friendship with each other 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Ch 18:3, We don't see that anymore. I remember when I was a kid, I used to make a friendship bracelet and give it to my friend as a reminder of our oath
- You can see here that this act, means, hey whatever happens, you know you can count on me and vice versa. This required a tremendous commitment
- Jonathan was extremely loyal. He saved David's life on more than one occasion and was a loyal friend. However, he was also a loyal son and didn't reject his own father. They remained "undivided even in death" (2 Sam 1:23). Jonathan even said that Saul did nothing without discussing it with him (1 Sam 20:2).

### Great Friendships require great risk

- Jonathan as the firstborn of Saul had every right to seize his father's throne, and challenge David and yet he was willing to give everything that belonged to him to David
- On the other hand you can see Saul, getting jealous of David and decides to pursue a path that wanted to kill David
- Jonathan being friends with David and keeping his commitment to him, put him at odds with his own father. He had to choose, who should I follow, my father who gave me the throne after his reign, or David, my closest friend
- He risked his relationship with his father, and his safety to keep David safe and provide him with information, 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Ch 23: 16

### Great Friendships require great faith

- In everything David and Jonathan had included their deep faith in God.
- When David and Jonathan went to renew their oath, they made sure it was in God's presence: 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Ch 20
- Courage (1 Sam 13-14)- Jonathan was famed for his courage. He didn't let numbers deter him. Because of his deep trust in God he wasn't afraid to go up against enormous opposition.

### Great Friendships require Great love

- Unselfish love (1 Sam 18:1-4)- Jonathan truly kept the command to "love thy neighbor" as yourself
- Jonathan died by the hand of the Philistines in a war. He was killed in battle fighting for his country.

- When David found out that Jonathan had been killed in battle: he grieved for Jonathan, he lamented his loss as if he had lost a piece of his heart: 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel Ch 1:25-27
- Here especially you can see that David and Jonathan's friendship was more than a friendship of convenience/ shared commonalities. David loved him like his own brother. With this type of friendship you can feel through the pages the sense of loss that David had for Jonathan

What to take away for modern day friendships

- Friendship does not have to require a contract, but it does require commitment
- When commitment gets tested, take it as a sign of growth, if you continue to stay loyal and faithful, the friendship can only blossom
- Risk = Sacrifice, whether it be emotional risk a material risk If I see my friend in grief or in pain, how can I step in to share or take a part of their burden
- Am I willing to risk my own comforts to help my friend
- Friendship requires faith, it requires that you encourage your friend and you help them grow
- I am not saying that you cannot have a great friendship without the other person being a Christian, if you happen to find that in a friend, you could only grow with that commonality, it adds another dimension to the relationship
- Jonathan loved David as himself. He was willing to give everything that belonged to him to David. He encouraged David in the Lord. He protected David. This wasn't friendship with the purpose of gaining something as so many friendships are in the world. In the world people say, "I will be your friend if you do these things for me." Jonathan was selfless and this is how we should relate to our friends
- Jesus said this: John Ch 15:13-14