

The Self-Sacrifice of Friendship and the Blindness of External Religion

1 Samuel 20:1-42

Pray that God's Spirit would give you spiritual insight into his Word and a heart that wants to obey.

1. Have you experienced true friendship? What was/is that like?
2. Why is it significant that David goes to Jonathan in v.1? How important is trust in a friendship? How might that trust be broken? Take a look at these verses: Proverbs 16:28; Proverbs 18:24.
3. Why is David concerned about establishing his innocence in v.8? What is the role of good character in friendship? See 1 Corinthians 15:33 and James 4:4.
4. What does it mean that Jonathan and David made a covenant with each other (18:3; 20:8; 20:16)?
5. This passage tells us that Jonathan and David loved each other as friends (18:3; 20:17). Why would the affirmation of love be so significant to David in his present situation? Hint: it might help to look at Proverbs 17:17.
6. Why is Jonathan asking for David for kindness toward him after his enemies have died? How did David show this kindness? See 2 Samuel 9:1-13.
7. What is the significance of Jonathan and David interweaving their conversation with God? See 20:3, 8, 12-16, 22-23. What do they say about him, and how does being in a relationship to God shape their conversation and friendship?
8. What was the New Moon feast (see Numbers 10:10; 28:11-15)? Are Christians required to keep such feasts, why or why not? It might help to look up Colossians 2:16.
9. How would you describe Saul's actions at this religious feast? Look at 20:26-27. What motivates such behaviour? What does Jesus say about exactly such behaviour in Matthew 5:23-24?
10. What do Saul's words in 20:30-31 reveal about his character and motives? If Saul had a new heart, what do you think he would be most concerned with?
11. What does God's preservation of David teach us about his plan and character in 1 Samuel 16:12-13?
12. Practically, how can you cultivate godly friendship? How should you deal with those who set themselves up as your enemies?