

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Formula for Friendship

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 Samuel 18:1-4

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #0818

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Those who have a friend are fortunate indeed.
  - i) Not everybody has a friend, but everybody needs a friend.
- b) 1 Samuel 18 is a vignette in the lives of David and Jonathan.
  - i) It brings into clear focus the fortune of friendship and the formula for friendship.
- c) 1 Samuel 18:1-4
  - i) The word “soul” in verse three is another word for “self.”
    - (1) This literally means that Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.
- d) Never underestimate the value of a true friend.
  - i) When you lose a real friend, a little bit of you dies.
  - ii) Friends are valuable.
  - iii) A person may have a lot of acquaintances but not many true friends.
- e) Saul, the king of Israel, was eaten up with jealousy and envy over David.
- f) David was a man after God’s own heart.
  - i) Acts 13:22
  - ii) David was a youngster, but he had the anointing.
    - (1) The Spirit and power of God were upon him.
- g) David was rising higher and higher, and Saul was burning with anger.
  - i) Saul decided that David must be slain.
    - (1) He brought all of his desires into one burning focus to kill David.
  - ii) David was forced to flee for his life.
    - (1) David was hunted on the mountainside.
    - (2) He had to live in caves and dens.
    - (3) He had to say goodbye to family, friends, fortune and fame.
- h) David was in the furnace of affliction.
  - i) Oftentimes when God uses a person, they seem to go through the furnace of affliction.
  - ii) But God did something for David that He will also do for us.
    - (1) He gave David a friend.
    - (2) Jonathan was a great influence, strength and power to David at this time.
- i) We need to be thankful for our friends and take care of our friends.
- j) We may have many acquaintances, but a person is very rich who has one Jonathan-like friend.
  - i) Don’t try to have a lot of friends.
    - (1) Wisdom tells us that it’s wrong to try to have too many friends because friendship must be cultivated.
    - (2) You can only cultivate a few real, genuine friends.
- k) The Lord Jesus had friends.
  - i) He chose twelve.
    - (1) Of that twelve, there was an inner circle of Peter, James and John.
    - (2) Of that inner circle, there was one friend who was even closer, and that was the beloved disciple, John.

- ii) Of all of the crowds, there was Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
    - (1) Jesus spent time with them because in His humanity, even our dear Savior needed a friend.
  - l) In today's message, we will see the traits of a real, true, Jonathan-type friend.
    - i) We will learn what real friendship is through the example of Jonathan and David.
- 2) IT WAS A SELFLESS FRIENDSHIP (1 SAMUEL 18:1)
- a) 1 Samuel 18:1
    - i) Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.
  - b) We cannot love anybody unless we first love ourselves.
    - i) Jesus said that we're to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.
      - (1) Matthew 22:39
    - ii) If we hate ourselves, then how will we treat others?
  - c) It is not until we have a healthy self-conception, until we rest in Jesus, and until we are secure in the Lord that we are then free to love someone else.
    - i) No longer do we feel vulnerable.
    - ii) No longer are we afraid to give up something in us.
    - iii) We can share ourselves because we love ourselves; therefore, we can love someone else.
  - d) If anyone had a right to be jealous and envious of David, it was Jonathan.
    - i) Jonathan was the king's son and heir to the throne.
    - ii) Yet, there was not one speck of jealousy in Jonathan.
  - e) It was an unconditional friendship.
    - i) There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
      - (1) Proverbs 18:24
  - f) Jonathan's relationship with David was not based upon conditions.
    - i) Anyone who says, "I will love you if..." is not a friend.
    - ii) Anyone who says, "I will love you when..." is not a friend.
    - iii) Anyone who says, "I will love you until..." is not a friend.
    - iv) Anyone who says, "I love you because..." is not a friend.
      - (1) All of these have conditions.
  - g) Real friendship is totally unconditional.
    - i) It simply says, "I love you," period.
- 3) IT WAS A STEADFAST FRIENDSHIP (1 SAMUEL 18:3)
- a) 1 Samuel 18:3
    - i) A covenant was an immutable, unbreakable and unchangeable agreement.
    - ii) David and Jonathan's friendship was marked by a blood covenant.
  - b) This friendship never wavered.
  - c) 1 Samuel 20:42
    - i) From this time on, circumstances separated David and Jonathan.
    - ii) Everyone else was against David at this time, but at the jeopardy of his own life, Jonathan stood by him.

- d) Proverbs 17:17
  - e) If you want to know who your friends really are, then make a mistake and see who stands by you through thick and thin.
    - i) When we get into adversity, we find out whether or not we have a friend.
  - f) If you want to know whether or not you are a true friend, then what do you do when your friend has need of you?
    - i) Proverbs 27:10
- 4) IT WAS A SACRIFICIAL FRIENDSHIP (1 SAMUEL 18:4)
- a) 1 Samuel 18:4
    - i) Jonathan was willing to share.
    - ii) At this particular point, Jonathan had much, and David had little.
      - (1) Jonathan had lived a life of royalty, while David had lived the life of a shepherd.
      - (2) Jonathan took what he had and shared it with his friend.
  - b) A real friendship is costly.
    - i) It costs to have friends, but it is worth it.
      - (1) There is no better investment.
  - c) You may give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.
  - d) 1 Samuel 20:4
- 5) IT WAS A SANCTIFYING RELATIONSHIP
- a) As we read the chapters that follow in 1 Samuel (after their covenant was made), we find that David was a better man for having a friend in Jonathan.
    - i) And in reciprocation, Jonathan was a better man for having a friend in David.
    - ii) A true friend is one who makes us a better person.
      - (1) A true friend is one who causes us to be better.
  - b) Because a friend is someone who has a sanctifying influence upon us, a friend is someone who lifts us.
  - c) Proverbs 27:17
    - i) A true friend is going to put the edge on your life.
      - (1) They will make you sharp, keen, better and useful.
      - (2) They will not blunt your influence.
      - (3) They will not dull your spirituality.
    - ii) David's life was sharpened by Jonathan, and Jonathan's life was sharpened by David.
  - d) One of the best things that could happen to us is to have a friend that so loves God and so loves us that we're always a better person when we leave the presence of that friend.
    - i) Someone has written these words about a friend:
      - (1) "I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you."

- e) A real friend will love us enough to confront us when we need to be confronted.
  - i) Proverbs 27:6
- f) David had a friend who loved him enough to strengthen him, help him, correct him, to guide him and to sustain him.
- g) If we find ourselves wishing that we had someone who would love us as Jonathan loved David, then we need to stop waiting for someone to love us and find our own David and love them as Jonathan loved David.
  - i) Proverbs 18:24
  - ii) Galatians 6:7
  - iii) Stop waiting to be loved, and love somebody.
  - iv) Stop waiting for someone to give to you, and instead, give to somebody.
  - v) Be a friend to somebody, and you may find that that person may be a friend to you.

## 6) CONCLUSION

- a) There is one who did not wait for us to love Him before He loved us, and His name is Jesus.
- b) The love of Jonathan for David is but a faint reflection of the love of Jesus for you.
  - i) Jesus loves you with a selfless love, a steadfast love, a sacrificial love and a sanctifying love.
- c) The way to be a friend to someone else is to love that person with a selfless love.
  - i) But you can never love someone else until you love you.
  - ii) And you can never really love you until you receive the love of Jesus.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16