

WEEKLY REFLECTION

The greatest example of friendship in the Bible is that of David and Jonathan. In 1 Samuel 18, it says that “the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David... Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.”

When David was fleeing from King Saul, who was trying to kill him, Jonathan tried to balance the opposing sides of honoring his father and trying to protect his friend. The trust and love between them was so present that Jonathan readily promised David “Whatever you say, I will do for you.” (1 Sam. 20:4) When Saul and Jonathan met their untimely death on the battlefield, David lamented for them both, but said this of Jonathan: “I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women.” (2 Sam. 1:26)

How lamentable is it that in modern society, we have made such friendships obsolete! That we look at the intimacy and closeness between David and Jonathan, but refuse to believe that we could have close friendships of the level of trust, depth, and mutual love and sacrifice that they had for each other! Perhaps one of the modern epidemics of society is not just that we have permeated our world with shallow acquaintanceship, but that we tend to look for this type of fulfillment in the midst of romance, not knowing that when the butterflies fade, friendship (or the lack of it) is what remains. And yet, we were made for relationship. Deep, fulfilling relationship—not only with God, but also with one another—is what sustains us.

So how do we find or build this type of friendship? Through prayer, intentionality, time and effort, by choosing to show up even when we are not at our best, and by letting trusted people in. David and Jonathan also show us the value of humility, of sacrificing one’s self-interest and comfort for the sake of one’s friend, and the worth of deep, covenantal friendship that points time and time again not to ourselves, to the one and only True and Almighty God.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

Who are some of your closest friends? Why do you consider them your close friends? What commonalities / similarities do you have with them, and what differences do you have between you?

In light of what you have shared, how would you define friendship, and why would you decide to be (close) friends with someone?

QUESTION TWO:

Go through the passages of 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:12-17; and 2 Samuel 9:1-7 if necessary, to jog your memory on the story of David and Jonathan.

What are some of the things that stick out about David and Jonathan's friendship? How do you think God used their friendship to shape both of them?

How can we understand the level of intimacy between David and Jonathan, when it is so strange and foreign to us today?

QUESTION THREE:

Our horizontal relationships with each other should always impact our vertical relationship with God, and vice versa.

How do you think your relationships with your friends is different from that of David and Jonathan, and how can you be taking steps to pursue deeper friendship if necessary?

How do you think God can use your relationships with your friends to impact one another, but also to impact your relationship with Him?