

Sermon Notes for August 8, 2010

Sermon Series On David
A Life Of Great Success And Great Failure
“David, A Model Of Friendship”
I Samuel 20

Video – “The Big Bang”

Introduction

A. The WORLD’S VIEW OF FRIENDSHIP

1. Two of the most popular television shows over the last twenty years have been based on friendship:
 - a. 1989 – 1998 – **Seinfeld** (Slide)
 1. a show featuring the life of Jerry Seinfeld and his friends
 2. seen by some as the greatest T.V. series ever made
 - b. 1994 – 2004 – **Friends** (Slide)
 1. a show revolving around a group of six close friends living in New York City
 2. the show received some 63 Emmy nominations
2. And yet, it seems as if Americans are living “vicariously” through these television shows as many Americans do not have close relationships with others.
 - a. According to a study documented in the June 2006 issue of the journal, *American Sociological Review*, Americans are thought to be suffering a loss in the quality and quantity of close friendships since at least 1985. The study states 25% of Americans have no close confidants, and the average total number of confidants per citizen has dropped from four to two.
 - b. America has moved from an agrarian to an urban society
 1. how many grew up in small communities?
 - a. families
 - b. life-long friends (W.M.)
 2. with the demands of life, we struggle to make close friends
 3. we get home at night and lock the doors – we do not want to see anyone.

B. The WORD’S VIEW OF FRIENDSHIP

1. I believe that Scripture is replete with verses that speak of our need for relationships.
 - a. The Lord’s first recorded statement about the man that He created was: **Genesis 2:18** – “It is **not good for the man to be alone.**”
 - b. **Proverbs 17:17** – “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”
 - c. **Proverbs 18:24** – “A man of many companions may come to ruin, **but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**”

- d. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** – “**Two are better than one**, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, **his friend can help him up**. But pity the man who falls and has **no one to help him up!** Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. **But how can one keep warm alone?** Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. **A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.**”
 2. If I were to ask ten preachers what story of friendship they would use to preach on out of the Bible, I believe that nine out of ten would use the story of the friendship of **Jonathan and David**.
 - a. here we will see the deep love that two men had for each other
 - b. it is a model of friends, not only for men, but for women as well
 3. We will look, today, at the process of becoming a friend as well as the problems of being a friend.
- I. There Will Be A CREATION OF THE FRIENDSHIP.**
- A. The PAST Of Jonathan And David’s Friendship.**
1. The **past of Jonathan**.
 - a. Jonathan was the son of the first King of Israel, King Saul
 - b. Jonathan was a young man, but he had proven himself in battle against the Philistines
 1. at one time, King Saul had a formidable army of some 300,000 men
 2. however, after wars with the Amorites and the Philistines, Israel’s army had dwindled down to some 600 men
 3. one day, when the Israelites were being threatened by the Philistines:
 - a. young Jonathan, with only his armor bearer, snuck into the Philistine camp and both he and his armor bearer killed some 20 Philistines by themselves
I Samuel 14:11-14 - So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. "Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in." The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson." So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "**Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel.**" Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. **The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.** In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some **twenty men** in an area of about half an acre.”
 - b. Jonathan, was a warrior who trusted in the strength of Jehovah God
 2. The **past of David**.
 - a. while Jonathan was growing up in the home of king Saul, David was growing up in the home of a shepherd by the name of Jesse
 - b. however, after King Saul’s failure to trust in Jehovah God, God anointed this young shepherd boy, David, to be the next king of Israel

B. The PROCESS Of Jonathan And David's Friendship.

1. It is very likely that Jonathan and David had never met until the fight between David and Goliath.
2. However, their paths crossed when there was a standstill between the armies of the Israelites and the Philistines.
 - a. for 40 days, a huge Philistine soldier named Goliath, stood and mocked the Israelites, calling them out to battle
 1. Goliath was 9 feet tall and wore some 125 lbs. of armor
 2. David's three brothers were already at the battlefield
 - a. so, David's father Jesse sent food with David to take to his brothers on the battlefield
 - b. David had no real idea what was going on until he arrived at the battlefield
 - b. when David arrived at the battlefield, he was appalled at what he saw and heard:
 1. at what Goliath was saying:
I Samuel 17:26 - David asked the men standing near him, **"What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**
 2. at the fact that no Israelite would meet Goliath's challenge!
 - c. so, David went immediately to King Saul and said that **HE WOULD CHALLENGE THE GIANT**
 1. after refusing Saul's armor for protection, David took a stone for his slingshot and went to meet Goliath
I Samuel 17:45-47 – "David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, **but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel**, whom you have defied. **This day the LORD will hand you over to me**, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; **for the battle is the Lord's**, and He will **give all of you into** our hands."
 - a. David is a warrior
 - b. and he is trusting in Jehovah God to deliver him.
 2. IMMEDIATELY, King Saul asked **WHO** the boy's father was.
 - a. David walked up to Saul and told him that he was the son of Jesse, of Bethlehem
 - b. more than likely, Jonathan was by his father's side and saw the whole event between David and Goliath
 1. not only did David walk up to Saul after he killed Goliath
 2. it is entirely possible that David was still holding Goliath's head in his hand.

- c. HERE, Jonathan and David met for the first time
- d. here, Jonathan and David became close friends
 - 1. two young, brave soldiers who had a passion for God, met that day
 - 2. and their hearts were knit together **INSTANTLY**
I Samuel 18:1-3 – “After David had finished talking with Saul, **Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.** From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. And Jonathan made a covenant with David **because he loved him as himself.** ”
 - 3. **Pastor David Roper** – “Both David and Jonathan were, to my thinking, **swashbuckling men of faith, go-for-broke individuals, who were willing to fling their lives away and entrust themselves to the Lord, no matter what it might cost them.**
 - 4. to show his respect and admiration of David, Jonathan gave David his armor
I Samuel 18:4 – “Jonathan **took off the robe** he was wearing and **gave it to David**, along with **his tunic**, and even **his sword, his bow and his belt.**”
 - a. Jonathan was in awe of what David just did
 - b. it was as if there was a “transfer of power” as the heir to the throne gave his “kingly clothes” to another.

C. The PROCESS Of Becoming Friends.

- 1. You can easily tell **what caused Jonathan and David to become such close friends.**
 - a. **they were both young, brave warriors**
 - b. **they both depended on Jehovah God**
 - c. Jonathan was obviously impressed with the courage and skill of David as he bravely and skillfully approached and killed the 9 foot giant
- 2. There are reasons why we make the friends that we do.
 - a. like Jonathan and David, we look to make friends with those who have common interests and common goals
 - 1. David - Matt
 - 2. Beth - Bella
 - 3. Brad - Will
 - b. my friends in ministry
 - 1. passionate about Jesus Christ
 - 2. practical in their ministry model
 - 3. not preoccupied with theological concepts but Biblical reality
 - a. I will never be close friends with those who spend their entire day on a computer
 - b. or who talk only about theological concepts
 - 4. and . . .they probably play golf (David P.)

II. There Will Be PROBLEMS Between Friends.

A. Jonathan's PROBLEM WITH HIS FATHER.

1. No sooner had David killed Goliath that people began to chant:
I Samuel 18:7b – “Saul has slain his thousands, and **David his tens of thousands.**”
 - a. Saul IMMEDIATELY reacted in anger to what he was hearing from the people and from that moment on, Saul decided to kill David
 - b. **IN FACT, SAUL EVEN TRIED TO KILL DAVID;**
I Samuel 18:8-9 – “Saul was very angry; **this refrain galled him.** "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. **What more can he get but the kingdom?" And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.**”

I Samuel 18:10b-11 – “Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself, **"I'll pin David to the wall."** But David eluded him **twice.**”
 - c. at this point, it became “rather obvious” that Saul wanted to kill David
2. Obviously, this was going to be a very difficult situation for Jonathan.
 - a. Jonathan loved his father, King Saul
 - b. but he also loved his friend, David

B. Jonathan's PROBLEM WITH HIS FRIEND.

1. After Saul's attempt to kill David, David went to his friend Jonathan and told him that Saul, Jonathan's father, was trying to kill him.
I Samuel 20:1-2 – “Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, **"What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to take my life?"** "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without confiding in me. Why would he hide this from me? It's not so!"
2. Jonathan strongly disagreed with David, and swore to David that his father was not trying to kill him.
3. This must have been very confusing to David – for “a spear to the head” was very convincing.
4. How would David build a relationship with a person who did not believe him?

C. Our PROBLEM WITH OUR FRIENDS.

1. We **MUST** realize that, if we expect to have deep relationships, **THERE WILL BE DISAGREEMENTS** with our friends, sometimes very strongly.
 - a. **we will be MOST PASSIONATE with those who are closest to us**
 - b. so, don't become upset when you have a strong disagreement with one that you love deeply
 - c. those who never love deeply will never be hurt deeply
 - d. **thus, problems are a part of relationships**
2. Think about this theologically and Biblically.
 - a. if each and every one of us is a sinner
 1. who want what we want when we want it
 2. who have a hard time serving and being considerate of others . .

- b. then what do you think are the chances that two sinners, who feel strongly about certain personal issues, will have problems in their relationship?
- c. I am always surprised when couples are fearful when they have an argument
 - 1. how can two people ALWAYS agree. . .especially when they are not of the same sex?
 - a. Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus
 - b. Men Are Like Waffles, Women Are Like Spaghetti
 - 2. I have always heard; “If a couple does not argue, then one of you is unnecessary!”
- d. **Kenneth Chafin** – “**Relationships that will not survive differences are not healthy**, and friends who can’t be honest with each other about things of great importance will always have a superficial relationship.”

III. There Must Be SOLUTIONS Between Friends.

A. Jonathan Made A COMMITMENT To David.

I Samuel 20:12-13 - Then Jonathan said to David: "**By the LORD, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? But if my father is inclined to harm you, may the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away safely. May the LORD be with you as he has been with my father.**"

1. notice what Jonathan “**said**” to David: **Vs. 12 – “By the Lord, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father.”**
 - a. Jonathan swore an oath using God’s name
 - b. this was an oath that Jonathan made to God on behalf of David and their friendship
 - c. it was “obviously” a binding oath between them
2. Notice what Jonathan “**did**” to David.
 - a. Jonathan did not merely make a pledge or promise as a friend – HE MADE A LITERAL PLAN
 1. there was going to be a feast, a New Moon Festival, that the Jews celebrated each month
 2. all of those close to King Saul, both Jonathan and David, were to be there
 3. however, David did not plan to go (go figure . . .)
 4. Jonathan’s plan was to watch his father’s response of David’s absence
 - a. if Saul was **not** angry, then Jonathan would go out into a field behind his house and shoot some arrows
 1. Jonathan told David about where he would shoot the arrows:
 2. if Jonathan shot his arrows “to the side” of a boy who would retrieve the arrows – then David would be safe
 - b. however, if Saul **was** angry, then Jonathan would shoot the arrows “beyond the boy” – David was not to return to the dinner

- b. Jonathan would see what his plan would reveal about his father
- c. the shooting of the arrows showed Jonathan's "physical" love for David

B. Jonathan Made A COVENANT With David.

I Samuel 20:16-17 - So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD call David's enemies to account." And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

1. Why would Jonathan need to make a "covenant" when he had already made a "commitment?"
 - a. one way to look at a covenant is to see how God made a covenant with:
 1. **Noah**
Genesis 9:8-11 - Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "**I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants** after you and with every living creature that was with you--the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you--every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: **Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.**"
 2. **Abraham**
Genesis 17:3-6 - Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "**As for me, this is my covenant with you:** You will be the **father of many nations**. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.**
 - b. do you see the intent of God's covenant with man?
 1. the covenant was made BY God to man
 2. **BECAUSE** God made this covenant – **GOD MUST KEEP HIS WORD**
 3. and what was His word?
 - a. to **take care** of the Jews
 - b. to **bless** them
 - c. to **be their God**
2. When Jonathan made a "covenant" with David:
 - a. **Jonathan pledged his very heart and soul to David**
 - b. not only would Jonathan give David his life, **he would live to bless David**

C. We Must Make A COMMITMENT AND A COVENANT With Our Friends.

1. If you want to make and be a deep friend with another, **you must make a commitment** to them.
 - A. **THAT, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU WILL BE THERE FOR YOUR FRIEND**
 - b. **BECAUSE** more than likely, something **WILL** happen that could cause a division in your relationship
 - c. your friends must know that **NOTHING** will separate you from one another
 1. **Proverbs 17:17** – "**A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.**"

2. **Proverbs 18:24** – “A man of many companions may come to ruin, **but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**”
- d. THIS IS THE “KIND” of friend that Jesus is to each of us who are believers
 1. he stays with us no matter what
 2. He has made that commitment to us
 3. D. B. – “I guess we went different ways” – thus, there was no commitment
- e. I often tell couples in pre-marital counseling to take some time on their honeymoon to “make a commitment” to one another – when no one is there but them
2. If you want to be a deep friend, **you must also make a covenant** with them.
 - a. whereas a commitment says that I will stick with you, no matter what
 - b. **A COVENANT SAYS THAT I WILL ALSO DO EVERYTHING THAT I CAN TO BLESS AND ENCOURAGE YOU IN OUR RELATIONSHIP**
 1. THAT is the real difference between a commitment and a covenant
 - a. a commitment is a decision to stand by our friend, no matter what
 - b. while a covenant exists when you become a friend that desires to bless, edify, educate, and encourage others
 2. notice true, “Biblical love”
 - a. Jesus in **John 15:13** – “Greater love has no one than this, **that he lay down his life for his friends.**”
 1. true, Biblical love, exists to “bless others; not just yourself
 2. even to the point of giving your life, you are so “others – focused
 - b. **John 15:14** – “You are my **friends if you do what I command.**”
 1. **Gary Inrig** – “Jesus is not telling us that friendship is conditional, but that His friendship is **transformational.**” **He gives His life to us in such a way that we can never be the same again.**
 2. to be “truly Christ-like” in our friendships is to be used by God to transform the lives of our friends to be more like Jesus.
 3. **Pastor David Roper** – “This adds another dimension to friendship. Friendship is not just giving of myself to another person, but it is giving for a particular purpose - **that the person might be everything God intends him or her to be.** God has a plan for your life, and he is going to fulfill that plan. **He is loyal to you to accomplish that plan. And he uses me in your life, and he uses you in my life, to accomplish**

that plan. Therefore the fact that you are a friend tells me that I not only must give of myself to you, that I am to give of myself to the end that you might be everything God intends you to be. **That was the covenant David and Jonathan experienced.”**

3. if you want a **“Godly friendship”**
 - a. **you will love that person NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS**
 - b. **and you will do everything in your friendship to make them more like Jesus Christ**
 - c. after all, that was what Jesus did with His disciples

IV. There Must Be A DEFENSE OF Your Friend.

A. Jonathan’s FATHER ATTACKED HIS FRIEND.

1. When Jonathan returned to the festival, Saul eventually “showed his true colors” about his feelings about David.

I Samuel 20:28-31 – “Jonathan answered, "David earnestly asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem. He said, 'Let me go, because our family is observing a sacrifice in the town and my brother has ordered me to be there. If I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away to see my brothers.' That is why he has not come to the king's table. **Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan** and he said to him, "**You son of a perverse and rebellious woman!** Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the **shame of the mother who bore you?** As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. **Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!**"

- a. Saul released his anger toward David AS WELL AS HIS LACK OF RESPECT for his son Jonathan
 1. **at this point, THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT SAUL WANTED TO KILL DAVID**
 2. Jonathan was in a real dilemma
 - a. he wanted to show respect for his father
 - b. but he needed to respond to the accusations of his friend
- b. what would Jonathan do?

2. Jonathan acted like a “true friend”

B. Jonathan DEFENDED His Friend.

1. Jonathan himself responded in anger toward his father.

I Samuel 20:32-34 – “**Why should he be put to death? What has he done?**” Jonathan asked his father. But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. **Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger;** on that second day of the month he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David.”

- a. although Jonathan was the heir to the throne of Israel
 - b. Jonathan defended his friend David and left the feast
2. Jonathan would then go out to the field and shoot the arrows, telling David that his father Saul indeed wanted to kill him.

C. We Must DEFEND Our Friends.

1. Perhaps the **GREATEST EVIDENCE** that we have a true friend is that we will **DEFEND THEM AT ALL COSTS.**
 - a. Jonathan was putting his future kingship as well as his future relationship with his father on the line
 - b. **as far as Jonathan knew, his life may never be the same BECAUSE of the way that he left that dinner**
2. Do you defend your friends?
 - a. when they are not there to defend themselves
 - b. when you are the only one there to defend them
 - c. and your defense of your friend could cause you to lose your other friends?
 - d. middle school – high school friends

V. There May Be **GRIEF** Because Of Friends.

A. Jonathan And David Were **GRIEVED** Because Of Their **FRIENDSHIP.**

1. After Jonathan had shared the news of his father’s desire to kill David, they met together the next morning.
 - a. this scene may be one of the most tender, saddest, tragic scenes between friends in all of literature
 - b. notice first that both of them were strong, vibrant warriors; they were men
 1. Jonathan had killed 20 men, almost by himself
 2. and David had killed the overwhelming 9 foot giant, Goliath
 - c. but notice their emotions when they faced one another
I Samuel 20:41 – “After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and **bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground.** Then they **kissed each other and wept together--but David wept the most.**”
 1. they **kissed each other**
 - a. the practice of men kissing in France and Russia
 - b. my experience with Bruce D.; my brothers; my sons
 - c. these were two strong men who physically expressed their love for one another by a kiss
 - d. **YOU CANNOT DOUBT THEIR MASCULINITY!**
 2. they **cried with each other**
 - a. **the Hebrew – embraced and wailed**
 - b. my experience of moving from Columbia, S.C. to Miss. with my wife and parents
 1. we were all overcome with emotions and tears
 2. I had a hard time driving
3. Perhaps both men knew that their relationship **WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME.**
 - a. **Phillip Keller** – “**This was not a reunion!** It was in essence a parting of paths. There was no place here now for further conversation. No time for more talk. **NO** need for further discussion. Both men, strong, upright, powerful warriors, fearless in combat, embraced fondly. **Their affirmations of deep affection were punctuated with sobs of sorrow. This was the place of parting.**”
 - b. they would meet one another only one more time

- c. Jonathan would later be killed by the Philistines
- d. after David heard about the death of his dear friend, David responded with these words:

II Samuel 1:25-26 - "How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights. **I grieve for you**, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. **Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.**"

- 1. there is NOTHING sexual at all here in David's words
- 2. this was the deep, deep love of one man for another man
- 3. men, do you have this kind of relationship with any other man?

B. Good Friends MAY EXPERIENCE GRIEF.

- 1. If you do not ever want another person to hurt you, then do not make good friends.
 - a. that may be an easy decision to make, especially if your friends have hurt you deeply before
 - b. just draw back from others who want to get to know you and become an island
- 2. However, if you want to have deep long-lasting relationships that get under the surface, that get into your soul:
 - a. you can just about count on the fact that you will one day be hurt by that very person
 - b. in Jonathan and David's case;
 - 1. both of these men probably realized that their relationship would never be the same
 - 2. and David would eventually lose the best friend he ever had
 - c. my recent struggle with a dear friend: I hurt him deeply but we were restored

Conclusion:

- 1. In **May 1866**, **J. Hudson Taylor** and **16 other missionaries** sailed to China to take the gospel to that unbelieving nation. By **1911**, there were some **968 missionaries in China**. Today, there are approximately **70-100 million Christians in China**. In 2009, alone, there were some **500,000 Chinese who were saved**. What most people do not know, was how discouraged Hudson Taylor was when he began his ministry to China.

Hudson Taylor had reached a crossroads. Actually, it was more like a dead end. He was only twenty-three years old, and for less than two years he had been working as a missionary in China. But that time had been marked by a growing disillusionment with his missionary society, which had failed to keep its promises of support, and by discouragement caused by criticism from established missionaries of Taylor's unorthodox methods. But the two crushing blows came in the form of a letter from his girl in England "fearing that she did not love him," and an order from the British consul to stop his missionary work in a nontreaty town.

"My dear mother," he wrote, "my heart is sad, sad, sad. I do not know what to do."

At that stage, God graciously gave Hudson Taylor a friend, a godly Scottish missionary about twenty years his senior, named **William Burns**. Burns sensed in Taylor a young man with a kindred spirit and **a need for a friend**. He encouraged Taylor to rest in the Lord and to trust in His goodness, guidance, and resources. For seven months they traveled, preached, and prayed together, and those months left an indelible mark on Hudson Taylor. As Taylor's son and daughter-in-law described it, **"The friendship of this man was a gift of God to Hudson Taylor at this particular juncture. . .Such a friendship is one of the crowning blessings of life."** Another biographer says, **"Burns saved Taylor from himself. Rejected by conventional missionaries. . . he might have grown into an isolated man, an individualist adventuring in steadily contracting circles, leaving behind nothing but a few converts and an awkward memory."**

Humanly speaking, the ministry of Hudson Taylor would never have had its impact without his friendship with William Burns. Burns was not the only reason that Taylor became a man of God, but he was an indispensable factor. **Apart from a Jonathan, there would not have been a David.** Never minimize the impact that you can have on another person's life. May each of us be a "Jonathan" so that the "David's" in the world can reach their full potential.