

The Test of True Friendship - RBSM

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Resurrection Bible Study Ministry, Nigeria.

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Topic:

THE TEST OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Bible Text: 1 Samuel 20:17

Teacher: Adewuyi S. Oluwatobi

Prayer

Father we thank you for today, we thank you for our life and family, as we are about to start this evening bible study, we pray The Holy Spirit guide and direct us in Jesus name Amen!.

Study

I welcome everyone in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, tonight we would be treating a topic titled **The Test of True Friendship** I would like everyone of us to follow carefully as we study The word of God because the Lord is set to enlighten us Himself. Amen. Can we turn our bibles to the book of 1 Samuel 20:17 If we read through that chapter carefully we would see that Jonathan was the son of King Saul, he was a prince and at the same time a friend to David an ordinary harp player and a shepherd. David was still under Saul when the friendship of Jonathan and David started.

1 Samuel 20:17 KJV

And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

King Saul at several occasions determined to end David's life, still Jonathan had always leaked his father's secret plans to David which has always made him escape. Saul was a man that started well but missed it. David was to sit on the throne of Saul which Saul knew about yet he wanted to stop it from happening, his heart was not right with God, he did things the way he wanted and did not count God's word for anything, despite the kind of person Saul was, his son Jonathan did not take after him. In the midst of all these the true test of friendship could still be seen in his relationship with David, The Bible records that Jonathan loved David as his own soul, to love someone as his own soul does

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not mean loving himself than the other person.

It means not placing his own interest above David's, this is in line with what the Lord Jesus Christ said that "love your neighbor as yourself:" this simply means that it is possible to love others same way we love ourselves. As believers we have to seek other people's good and well-being before ours, the kind of relationship between David and Jonathan shows that Jonathan indeed loved David with passion, he was the one who was to succeed his father naturally, but God had chosen David yet he did not in any way get bittered against David instead he worked according to the Divine plan of God. He did all he could to encourage and help David to fulfill his destiny.

Jonathan knew of his father's plan to kill David, he knew Saul took David as an enemy yet he talked about The Lord cutting off every of David's enemies from the face of the Earth. 1 Samuel 20:15-16 KJV ... **no, not when the Lord hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. [16] So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the Lord even require it at the hand of David's enemies.** When he said that, it would have been impossible for him not to think of his own father's hostility toward David but he was ready to be identified with righteousness even if it was at the expense of his own father's interests and thus of his own interests. It was love that led Jonathan and David to renew their oath and because their relationship was born in the presence of God and the love of God, it stood the test of time. Jonathan risked his life for David as he went to confront his father, David was also willing to lay down his life for Jonathan he reminded Jonathan of their covenant relationship and the obligation it placed them under to be honest with each other, as part of that honesty he was willing to be killed by Jonathan if he actually deserved death. 1 Samuel 20:8 KJV **Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the Lord with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father?** If only all our friendships were as honest and unwilling to condone sin just like this one.

1 Samuel 20:18 KJV **Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.** David could not attend the feast because of the fear of Saul, for he had determined evil against him, therefore, in the first day of the feast David did not come for the feast and Saul

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thought David did not come because he is unclean. 1 Samuel 20:26 KJV **Nevertheless Saul spake not any thing that day: for he thought, Something hath befallen him, he is not clean; surely he is not clean.** "Something must have made David ceremonially unclean, yes, that's the reason he's not here" was Saul's thought.

Despite that he himself was unclean for seeking to murder an innocent soul but he did not see his own uncleanness but was thinking about another man as unclean. Despite of Saul's unclean heart he saw no need for not being present at a religious feast because he was swallowed up in religiosity. This is what religious people are known for, they always see the wrongs in other people's lives but do not see any wrong in their own lives. The Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 15:19 KJV **For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:** He said what makes a man unclean is what comes out of the heart of such a man. Saul was an hypocrites, hypocrites are always more anxious to see uncleanness in others than in themselves, In the same way we have many religious people in the Church of God who do not bother to give checks on their spiritual lives but are bent on picking out faults in others.

Saul was indeed a backslider in heart and only doing all he was doing as a form of show off, since God's Spirit had left him he had been behaving irrationally. He told Jonathan that in as much as David lives he would not rule. He called him the son of a rebellious woman, with this statement one could say that Saul was seeing Jonathan as an irresponsible son, and because he sees him to be of a bad character, he calls him his mother's son just to lay blame on him and his mother, same way many African parents are, they believe that a child that is good is of the father and the bad one is of the mother, whereas Jonathan was ready to stand for righteousness at all cost. He did not take after his father in his wicked state.

The Bible makes us to understand that the husband and the wife are one flesh and if truly they are one flesh they are to take responsibility for the success and failure of their children together. A true child of God should not behave like Saul, Saul did not behave righteously, we should stop laying blames on people by trying to single out ourselves, this is selfishness. 1 Samuel 20:30-31 KJV **Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse**

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to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness? [31] For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

In all, we are to note that no matter what the plans of our enemies are to wipe us away it will not happen until we have fulfilled our divinely ordained destiny if truly we are holy and righteous before God. Honesty and love are the attributes prominent in David and Jonathan's friendship. David trusted Jonathan that all he was seeking was his good; and Jonathan exhibited these truths by going to represent David in the presence of his father, requesting to know what Saul thinks about David and the decision he (Saul) wish to take on David if it is for good or for evil. As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ we must be like David and Jonathan in our friendships with others, we should be able to go extra length because of the other person, betrayal should not be heard of a true child of God, standing in the gap both physically and spiritually for our friends should be our aim.

David could not be present at the feast because of Saul's plan to kill him, but everything happening at the feast was well monitored by Jonathan for David's good. David trusted his friend so much that he knew that he would not seek after his life, this is the kind of friends we should be and also keep; not the kind of friend that uses his own friend for rituals, not one that bears false witness against his friend, not one that does not want his friend to be greater than him. The children of some family friends use the opportunity to sleep with each other, this is not true friendship. Indeed Jonathan was a good friend. We must ask ourselves these questions, what kind of friend am I to people, can I be trusted? What is the position of my heart towards my friends? Jonathan knew God 1 Samuel 23:16-17 KJV And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. [17] And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth. Keeping godly friends is very important. David and Jonathan had a covenant and none of them sort to break that covenant for any reason, there are many people who break covenant whenever they see that it would affect them or not favor them, such

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people are ruled and controlled by self.

1 Samuel 20:41-42 KJV **And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded. [42] And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, The Lord be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.** An adage says show me your friend and I will tell you who you are. The kind of friends we keep can to a large extent tell of the kind of person we are, If you are a drunkard, you'd keep drunkards as friends, if you have prostitutes as friends, elements of prostitution must be seen in you, If you are a loyal person, loyal friends would come around you, If you are born again you would attract born again people to yourself but there are cases whereby some trusted friends just choose to become disloyal which is not expected to be exhibited by true children of God. We must be known for truthfulness, faithfulness, honesty and loyalty in all of our friendships, we must not be the bad egg in that friendship, if you always complain of having unfaithful friends around you, then you need to check yourself if you are not unfaithful too.

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