

Men And Women Of The Bible: Jonathan

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 1 Samuel 20:1-42

About Jonathan:

- Jonathan was Saul's first-born son, which in the line of royalty historically meant that he would succeed his father as king
- God has appointed David as the next king of Israel. Instead of becoming jealous, Jonathan became friends with David.

Significance of Covenant/Giving of Robe:

- Jonathan and David made a covenant— this was common during that time. Men could make covenants of brotherhood with each other and it could even be ratified in a ceremony. This also meant they were responsible for the other's family if one were to pass away.
- Jonathan takes off his robe and gives his robe to David. In that time period, any article of clothing that was given to someone by a king or the man next in line to be king was considered the highest honor. But more than that, Jonathan showed in a humble way that the mantle of kingship would go to David, and by handing him his armor Jonathan was saying that the two of them would never be at odds over that decision.

Friendship Traits in Jonathan:

- Trust
 - Jonathan is having a hard time believing his father could act like David claimed he was. But he trusts that there is truth to what David says. And David trusts that Jonathan is not going to go tell his father but will investigate.
 - Who in your life trusts you? Can others depend on us? If someone has a need, and we're able to help, are we willing?
- Accountability
 - David's statement to Jonathan in the last verse is startling...*you have brought your servant into a sacred covenant with you. But if there is guilt in me, kill me yourself.* He is saying that he is going to be accountable. If I have lied about your father, who is the king of Israel, then you may do whatever you want to me.
 - Who likes to be vulnerable with someone else and say, "I really sinned in this area and I need your help." We need be willing to gently call each other out when we see someone going down the wrong path and allow others to do that for us.
 - Would you rather fall off a cliff and have people look over the edge and say, "I knew you were headed toward trouble but didn't want to offend you," or would you rather have someone walk beside you and remind you not to get too close to the edge.
- Honesty:
 - True friendship involves telling each other the truth, but speaking the truth in love. Have you ever had to do that—tell a friend something they didn't want to hear, but truly was for their own good?
 - Finally, and most importantly, Jonathan's friendship with David was God-centered.
 - When we keep God in the middle of our friendships, they go better. That's a simple statement, I realize—but it's true. When we see our friends as blessings from the Lord and truly seek to do them good and not harm—being trustworthy, honest, and accountable—God will bless us.