

## **BIRDS OF A FEATHER// WK2**

### **INTRO//**

- Hey Faith Students! Welcome to the best night of the week!
  - Last week we started a brand new series called: “Birds of a feather”
  - Comes from the saying “Birds of a feather flock together”
  - The saying means that similar people stay together
  - The community we keep reflects who we are and who we’re becoming, so who we keep around us/in our circle is important!
- Last week we looked at the story of Paul + Silas and how their friendship encouraged one another to praise God despite their circumstances, and it led to breakthrough. That’s the kind of community and friendship we need to seek! Those are the type of people we need to surround ourselves with!
- This week we’re looking at another story of friends in scripture and we see an incredible example of how to be a good/Godly friend to others.

### **ILLUSTRATION//**

- Have you ever had a friend you got along with incredibly well right away??
  - Instantly connected, maybe same interests: sports, show, etc.
  - Same humor
  - Maybe have a funny/serious moment that bonds you !
- (TELL A STORY?)

### **TRANSITION//**

- In scripture we see 2 friends quickly bond and it leads to one of the most powerful examples of friendship
- Throughout this series we’ll talk a lot about what kind of friends to seek out and find, but tonight I want to focus on what kind of friend God calls us to be

-We see that in the story/friendship of King David + Jonathan

-While David is remembered and known as a man after God's own heart, the focus of the message tonight is on Jonathan

-He shows time and time again what true, genuine and Godly friendship looks like

-Because some of the characteristics and qualities of Jonathan are truly Christlike

-By being a friend like Jonathan we can live a life that points people to Jesus

### **1 Samuel 18:1-4**

"After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David. 2 From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. 3 And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. 4 Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt."

\*Pray\*

-The first thing we see from Jonathan, the first characteristic of a Godly friend is: HUMILITY

### **1//HUMILITY**

- Jonathan humbly gives David his sword, bow, belt and tunic or robe.
  - Why is this significant? Why does this matter?

### **CONTEXT//**

- David had recently been anointed king and defeated Goliath
- He was next up to rule and lead Israel!
  - What's the problem?
  - Jonathan was the son of Saul (the current king!)
  - That means that traditionally HE would be next in line to rule + be king
- He doesn't approach David in anger or bitterness, he approaches him in love! They connect and bond right away!
  - And by giving David His robe, sword, bow and belt he's not just giving him some "hand me downs", he's saying: "You will be the next king of Israel. You should be dressed and armed as the crown prince. God's hand is on you and these rightfully belong to you."

## APPLICATION//

- Because Jonathan was humble + surrendered to God he could see the hand of the LORD upon David. He knew David's destiny and was perfectly willing to set aside his ambition to honor the LORD's choice.
- Pride comes when we try to put ourselves in a place we don't belong/should be!

## ILLUSTRATION//

- Pictures of things in places where they shouldn't be!





- None of these things are bad ! They're just in the wrong place!
- And for some of us we get jealous/prideful when we want to be in a position or be someone we aren't made to be!
  - Jonathan was humble and knew his place and role! God didn't make him to be king, and that was okay! Because he knew and trusted God's will.
    - W/O Jonathan as we'll see later, David never would've been King/lived long enough to be King
- Following the example of Jonathan, we need to be humble and serve and love those around us
  - Not be offended or upset by others success, but celebrate them and see how we can help!
  - Somebody else's success doesn't mean you're failing!
    - Sometimes the enemy will lie to us and make us jealous, prideful and entitled, and it's destroying our friendships!
- Godly friendships are built on humility!

## CONTEXT//

-This isn't the only thing we see in Jonathan's life/friendship with David.

-Even though Jonathan is cool with David being the next King, his dad Saul is NOT

-Quickly gets jealous when people start singing songs about how great David is and how people love his leadership, and gets mad when David marries his daughter

-Likely feeling inadequate and insecure, annoyed David was getting so close with his family

-Saul is the opposite of Jonathan, he DOESN'T know His place, led by pride and not humility

## **1 Samuel 19:1-6**

"Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, told him what his father was planning. "Tomorrow morning," he warned him, "you must find a hiding place out in the fields. I'll ask my father to go out there with me, and I'll talk to him about you. Then I'll tell you everything I can find out." The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him. "The king must not sin against his servant David," Jonathan said. "He's never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could. Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill the Philistine giant and how the Lord brought a great victory to all Israel as a result? You were certainly happy about it then. Why should you murder an innocent man like David? There is no reason for it at all!" So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed."

- Not only did Jonathan humbly serve and care for David, meeting his needs and supporting him, he PROTECTED him

## **2// PROTECT**

- Godly friends/community protect each other!
- How? Someone isn't running around trying to kill my friend?
- "We don't wrestle against flesh + blood"
- We must protect our friends from spiritual attacks/the enemy (satan)
  - By prayer:
    - Interceding and praying for them
    - That God would cover them
    - That they would desire the things of God
  - By scripture/truth:
    - Be a friend that teaches/reads the word with your friends! Encourage them to join you in a devotional plan or do a Bible reading group at lunch
    - The truth will protect you + your friends
      - "The truth will set you free"
      - Sometimes you may need to be real with your friends!
        - "They" aren't good for you
        - "That" isn't good for you
        - Share graciously! Truth is loving, protecting them from danger/pain they may not realize
- Godly friends love one another and care for each other
- Support them and be a place of strength for them
- This is part of the church + its design!
- God made us for community, to each play a part and work together/support each other

## **1 Corinthians 12:12, 27**

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body... So it is with the body of Christ. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

- Like Jonathan we should humbly care for and love our friends, support and protect them spiritually and lastly we see another powerful characteristic of Jonathan as a friend:

-Once again Saul has gone off the deep end and wants to kill David:

## **1 Samuel 20:12-17**

"Then Jonathan told David, "I promise by the Lord, the God of Israel, that by this time tomorrow, or the next day at the latest, I will talk to my father and let you know at once how he feels about

you. If he speaks favorably about you, I will let you know. But if he is angry and wants you killed, may the Lord strike me and even kill me if I don't warn you so you can escape and live. May the Lord be with you as he used to be with my father. And may you treat me with the faithful love of the Lord as long as I live. But if I die, treat my family with this faithful love, even when the Lord destroys all your enemies from the face of the earth." So Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, saying, "May the Lord destroy all your enemies!" And Jonathan made David reaffirm his vow of friendship again, for Jonathan loved David as he loved himself."

- Does that sound familiar?
- It's actually a command of God, to love one another as we love ourselves
- The 3rd and final characteristic Jonathan shows us Godly friends have is:

### 3// LOVE

-We see this in Leviticus and Jesus re-affirms this in **Matthew 22:39** "Love your neighbor as yourself."

- What does that mean?
  - We throw love around a lot, but what does that look like for our friends?
  - In the same way we take care of ourselves and are concerned about our own interests, we should take care and have concern for the interests of others.
  - We aren't self-centered/focused!
  - We seek to help meet the needs of others!
  - Life is bigger than ourselves/our happiness
  - Our purpose isn't to serve ourselves, it's to serve others, there may be sacrifice!
- Sound familiar again?
- Jesus lived this out in the ultimate example
  - He loved us so much He laid his life down for us
  - He sacrificed His comfort and sitting on His throne in Heaven to meet us where we are and take the penalty we deserved on the cross for our sin, so we could be made right with God
- Ultimately, Jonathan was reflecting Christ in his sacrificial love for David, and we are called to do the same
- When we live Humbly, protect others and are led with true and genuine love, Christ will be glorified and seen (that's the goal!)
- We want Christ to be seen and encountered in our friendships!
- We can love others and serve them by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit! And by remembering what a great friend we have in Jesus! Who came humbly, protected us from the consequences of sin + death, and loved us as he loved himself and met our needs.

### ALTAR + RESPONSE//

- Reflect + think on how God has loved us and Jesus laid His comfort down for us! Thank Him!
  - \*This could lead into a salvation call/worship and gratitude moment\*
- Think of what friends in your life you can serve in humility and protection. Think of ways you can tangibly support them and also pray for them!