**August 22, 2021 1 Samuel 19:1-10**

***A True Friend***

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 19:1-10

*(1)Saul spoke with his son Jonathan and with all his servants about killing David. But Saul's son Jonathan took great delight in David. (2)Jonathan told David, "My father Saul is trying to kill you; therefore be on guard tomorrow morning; stay in a secret place and hide yourself. (3)I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you; if I learn anything I will tell you." (4)Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul, saying to him, "The king should not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been of good service to you; (5)for he took his life in his hand when he attacked the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced; why then will you sin against an innocent person by killing David without cause?" (6)Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan; Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death." (7)So Jonathan called David and related all these things to him. Jonathan then brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before. (8)Again there was war, and David went out to fight the Philistines. He launched a heavy attack on them, so that they fled before him. (9)Then an evil spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand, while David was playing music. (10)Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear; but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. David fled and escaped that night.*

*“(9)As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. (10)If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (11)I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. (12)"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (13)No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. (14)You are my friends if you do what I command you. (15)I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. (16)You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. (17)I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. John 15:9-17 NRSV”*

*(1) Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? (2)You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. (3)You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. (4)Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:1-4 NRSV”*

**Notes:**

1. A Godly friend supplies a ***refuge***.
   1. ***warn*** them of impending situation.
   2. God is our ***refuge*** and our ***strength***.
2. A Godly friend ***intercedes*** on our behalf.
   1. we should ***intercede*** in prayer to God for them.
   2. Jesus Christ ***intercedes*** for us.
   3. go to God any time with ***confidence***.
3. A godly friend will ***risk*** their life for you.
   1. Jonathan almost ***lost*** his life by doing the right thing.
   2. Jesus physically ***gave*** his life for you.
      1. “*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*”
4. A worldly friend will ***set*** ***you*** ***up***.
   1. Satan will use whatever he can in order to ***destroy*** you.
   2. Satan is waiting for the best time to ***attack***.
5. A worldly friend is ***selfish***.
   1. All sin is ***selfish***.
   2. It is our ***selfishness*** that put Jesus on the cross.
6. A worldly friend will ***destroy*** you.
   1. ***Misery*** loves company.
   2. Jesus died on a cross and arose from the grave to ***redeem*** mankind; not ***angels***.
   3. Through the blood of Jesus, we can be ***redeemed***.
   4. Every person saved through the power of ***Christ*** is a huge ***victory*** over Satan.
7. Godly friendships are needed to bring ***victory*** over sin.
   1. Friendships are the key to winning ***lives*** for Christ.
   2. ***Befriend*** the lost by living, talking, and lifting up Jesus before others.
   3. Reach out to those who are ***lost***,
   4. Create ***disciples*** of Christ, one conversation at a time.

**Script:**

The first class of my first semester in college, at Cal U, was a Drawing and Design Class with Sam Madia. Mr. Madia was a knowledgeable elderly gentleman with great skill in drawing and design. But to those of us who had his class, he was more like a grandfather with worldly wisdom and advice on how to live a good life. On this first day of class, Mr. Madia offered this advice, “Look around you, many of you have never met each other before this day, and many of you will never see each other again after this class is ended. You have a desire to meet and make friends and that is fine, but what good are these friendships if you never speak after this class is ended. In the next few years you will make many acquaintances; and that is what you are as of now, acquaintances. From these many acquaintances you may develop a few friendships. Friendships are much stronger than acquaintances, because they will be there for you when times are tough, acquaintances are here for the moment but soon gone. Choose your friends wisely, because a true friend is closer too you than your own family.”

I remembered these words throughout my five and a half years at Cal U, and even to this day I consider them when looking to people and the friendships that I build. In my college career I have made few close friends, and of those I have stayed in contact with maybe 5 of these friends. The rest will all fall into the category of acquaintances. But in the time since, I have often had a difficult time distinguishing between who are my friends and who are my acquaintances. Who am I able to fully confide in and who am I able to count on if I am really in need?

We all like to think we have a lot of friends, and depending upon your definition of the term “friend”, you may have a lot of friends; or you may think you are lucky to have one or two. Who can you count in in difficult times? Who can you share your deepest darkest secrets with and know they will not share your secrets to be used against you? Who, if your life depended on it, could you turn to with confidence that they would stand by you until the very end? These are your friends.

The older I get, the more that I realize what an impact our friends have on our lives. Our friends can either be a bump in the road for us or a great blessing to us. While we should be friendly to all people, we should be careful in whom we desire to be friends with. Our friends can lead us into places where we may reap many benefits; but they can also lead us into places where we will suffer and be penalized. We are judged by the friendships we keep, and many times our friendships can help us out of difficult situations. Today we are looking closer to the friendship between David and Jonathan; and we will identify two types of friendships and the effects they may have on our lives. Turn with me in your Bible to 1 Samuel 19: 1-12:

*(1)Saul spoke with his son Jonathan and with all his servants about killing David. But Saul's son Jonathan took great delight in David. (2)Jonathan told David, "My father Saul is trying to kill you; therefore be on guard tomorrow morning; stay in a secret place and hide yourself. (3)I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you; if I learn anything I will tell you." (4)Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul, saying to him, "The king should not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been of good service to you; (5)for he took his life in his hand when he attacked the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced; why then will you sin against an innocent person by killing David without cause?" (6)Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan; Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death." (7)So Jonathan called David and related all these things to him. Jonathan then brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before. (8)Again there was war, and David went out to fight the Philistines. He launched a heavy attack on them, so that they fled before him. (9)Then an evil spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand, while David was playing music. (10)Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear; but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. David fled and escaped that night. 1 Samuel 19:1-10 NRSV*

The Bible defines for us 2 categories of friendship. The first is a friendship with God and the other is a friendship with the world. SO to better understand which is which I want to take a moment to identify the difference between them. When we talk about a friendship with God, we can look to scripture in John 15:9-17 where John records Jesus speaking to his disciples.

*“(9)As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. (10)If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (11)I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. (12)"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (13)No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. (14)You are my friends if you do what I command you. (15)I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. (16)You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. (17)I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. John 15:9-17 NRSV”*

When we look at friendship with the world we can look to the words of James 4:1-4. *“(1) Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? (2)You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. (3)You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. (4)Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:1-4 NRSV”*

Are you a friend of Satan’s or a friend of God’s? Some believe they can be both, but we are fooling ourselves when we think we can be a friend of God and a friend of Satan. You can’t be a friend of both. I believe that friendship with God is the key to fulfilling our purpose in God’s Kingdom, it is essential for you to do what He has in store for you. The key difference in being friends with God and with the world are found in love; and we show our love to God by being obedient to Him and loving others.

When we look in our passage today, we find that Jonathan was a true friend to David even when King Saul was trying to do away with David. Jonathan betrays his own father to help and protect David. So what godly characteristics should we be looking for in people whom we would consider to be our close friends; the people who we share much of our time and fellowship with, and what Godly characteristics should we embrace when being a friend to another? Please notice that every one of these characteristics is found in God’s actions towards us.

In verses 19:1-5 we find that a Godly friend supplies a refuge. When a friend is in danger, when they are in need of protection, we must warn them of the impending situation. Jonathan didn’t just warn David, he also gave him a place to hide. We must be a refuge for those whom are in danger. God is our refuge and our strength. When you need a place to hide, go to God. When you need a place of rest, go to God. When you need a place of protection, go to God. He is our refuge.

We also find that a Godly friend intercedes on our behalf. Jonathan interceded for David. He went to his father on David’s behalf. We are instructed to intercede for our friends. Instead of going along with the crowd, which may be attacking them, we should defend our friends. Instead of talking to others about them, we should intercede in prayer to God for them. Instead of allowing them to handle it on their own, we should realize that God uses us to help them; and we need to help. Jesus Christ intercedes for us. We can go to an Almighty, Perfect, Righteous, and Just God only because of the blood of Jesus. Without the blood of Jesus, we can never go before God the Father; but through the blood, we can go to God the Father any time we want to with confidence and boldness.

A godly friend will risk their life for you. In chapter 20 we find the story telling us that David had fled because Saul was still trying to kill him. David and Jonathan met together and made a covenant that Jonathan would not allow David to be put in a compromising situation with his father again. In 1 Samuel 20:24-34, Jonathan almost lost his life simply because he did the right thing. Are you willing to stand up for one another, even if it cost you everything? Jesus wasn’t just willing to give His life for us, He did it. Jesus physically gave his life for you, for me, for every person who walks this planet. As the passage we read earlier said, “*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*”

As always, the opposite of these godly truths represent the evilness of the world. Scripture is clear that Satan is the father of this world and that he wants to destroy anything of God; which includes us. We will find that a worldly friend will set you up. Saul could care less about all of the victories David had won for him and his country. We can see through the rest of this book that Saul is always trying to ambush David and kill him. Saul was always scheming and using people to catch David in a bad situation.

Satan will use whoever, however he can in order to destroy you. If he can’t hurt you through your family; through your spouse, your kids, or your parents; then he will try with your boss, in your career, or even with your neighbors. If he can’t hurt you through your boss, he will try through your church family. Satan is just waiting around to find the best time and opportunity to attack.

A worldly friend is selfish. Remember last week I mentioned friends that wanted you all to themselves and when you were friends with them, there was no room in your life for other friends? This is what I am talking about. Saul wanted David dead so bad that he was angry at his children, he tried to kill Jonathan, he did kill some of the priests, and he was always conniving simply because he was all about himself. Saul had always been about his comfort, his kingdom, “his this and his that”. All sin is selfish. If you want to get real simple about it; it is our selfishness that put Jesus on the cross.

A worldly friend will destroy you. They will allow you to be drawn into those very places and things that will destroy you and they don’t really care. Misery loves company. Why does Satan want to destroy us so badly? It’s because of the fact that Jesus died on a cross and arose from the grave on the 3rd day to redeem mankind; not angels. Satan’s rebellion against God was no worse than our rebellion against God; yet through the blood of Jesus, we can be redeemed and given eternal life. Satan wants us to be as miserable as he is. The only way that Satan can really hurt God, is through leading people to Hell with him. Every person that is saved through the power of Jesus Christ is a huge victory over Satan. Why do you think that the angels in Heaven are throwing such a party when someone gets saved? Victory!

We need to understand this morning that Godly friendships are what is needed to bring victory over sin and death in this world. Friendships that we form, and the friendships we maintain, are the are the key to winning lives for Christ and leading others into a relationship with Jesus.

Your friendships must be Godly; the friendships you receive, the friendships that you have, and the friendships you develop. you must befriend the lost by living like Jesus, talking like Jesus, and lifting up Jesus before others at all times; but who you fellowship with is a different story. There are people all around us; people who may be here today that need godly friends. Is it you? There are people here today that are friends of this world; they don’t know Jesus as Savior or Friend; could it be you? There are people today that need a new start; is it you? Today you have the opportunity to start over; You can choose, will you be a friend of the world or will you n]be a friend of God?

We also must be reaching out to those who are lost, we must avoid the characteristics of the worldly. We must work to build people up, not set them up. We must become generous to those in need and avoid the human tendency to be selfish, and we must work to prevent the destruction of individuals in our world. We can do this by being a friend that offers refuge from the world, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We are able to build up by interceding on the behalf of others. And, we must be willing to take risks in order to help others out. I know it is not easy, but if we are willing, we can work to create truly Godly friendships, and disciples of Christ one conversation at a time.