

"Friendships that Refresh"

I Samuel 18-23

Canon City EFC

6-11-17

MAIN IDEA: Friends matter, as does being a friend; Friends are one of God's gifts of refreshment.

SUPPORTING IDEAS:

What Friendship brings

- Friendship protects
 - stands side by side, when it's not popular, not safe
- Friendship takes us beyond ourselves, 18.3
 - We are changed by being a friend (& changed for the better!)
- Friendship brings refreshment, 23.16-18; cf II Tim 1.15-18; I Cor 16.17-18

What Friendship Requires:

- Friendship requires risking trust
- Friendship requires living for more than self, 18.3
 - We all long for that sort of friend; are we willing to BE that sort of friend?
- True friendship involves covenant, 23:18
- What sustains friendship is Who is at the center, 20.42

No One Friend Can Carry Us Through Life

One of the sad parts of this story is how little time these friends actually had together

God used many other people in David's life; some very unexpected

even this friendship was an AN UNLIKELY MATCH

God intends to use a variety of people to bring refreshment to your life

Some for a moment Some for decades

a variety of roles

we may miss potential friends because we're shopping for people who look just like us

Only One Friend Can Truly Carry Us Through Life: The Lord Jesus, Heb 13.5

Have you expected more from a friend than they were intended to provide?

Value and invest in friendships; but don't confuse them for what only He can provide

Will you look to the only One who will never fail?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION:

What most impresses you about the friendship between Jonathan and David? Can you think of a time you tasted this sort of friendship?

From a human perspective, why should this friendship never have lasted? Have you had friends that on the surface seemed unlikely? What made it work?

Not all friends prove faithful: David experienced betrayal repeatedly (the apostle Paul too). When we get hurt, what's the temptation? What allowed David (& Paul) to still risk meaningful friendships?

Jonathan helped David "find strength in God", 23.16; Paul was "refreshed" by Onesiphorus (I Tim 1.16f). Who has "refreshed" you, in a dark time? How is God calling you to be a friend?