

Friends

David asks

What have I done? Perhaps he hopes to know so things can be set straight.

Chapter 20 is about David and Jonathan's friendship.

Not what you'd expect from Jonathan

Loving Compassion between two men of the same spirit

David and Jonathan's relationship grows

David and Saul's is terminated

Was Saul "simply" a madman or was he determined to take David's life? 1 Samuel 20:9, 33; 20:1

David seems to give Saul the benefit of the doubt.

David doubts greatly, but perhaps something missing.

He seeks to believe the best about Saul, until the data proves differently, 19:6

Maybe he's just a mad man.

Maybe he really means me no harm

Maybe this thing can be reconciled, but I doubt it.

David and Jonathan give it one more try, 20.

The friendship of Jonathan and David (18:1-4; 19:1-7)

Why they should not have been friends (conventional wisdom).

Both were rivals to the throne

Jonathan easily could have been jealous of David's popularity, 1 Sam 18:5-7

They were years apart in age, scholars believe.

Jonathan had the wealth of his father's family (1 Sam 9:1-3), and the prestige of being a King's son, probably the firstborn, while David lived in obscurity and was from a poor family (1 Sam 18:18,23) and the last-born (1 Sam 16:11).

Why they were friends.

Both were courageous, 1 Sam 13:3; 14:1ff

You can be rich, poor and still be courageous

Both believed in God and put themselves at risk for his glory and each other, 1 Sam 14:6; 19:1-5; 20:28ff; David 1 Sam 17.

Both had a sense of loyalty to God and each other that transcended family

Both kept their word, even if it was difficult.

See 1 Sam 20:14-17; 2 Sam 9

Jonathan honored David and helped him in unconventional ways.

1 Sam 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20;

David honored Jonathan in ways that were unconventional

2 Samuel 9

Friendships involve risk. You might get hurt.

Friendships take work and sacrifice.

Friendships are based upon common bonds.

What common bonds do you have with your friends?

Are the common bonds of your friendships based upon matters of the heart or matters of convention?

Are all my friends WASPS?

Are all my friends politically in my camp?

Do all my friends have the same hobbies, preferences?