

Desperado - Building True Male Friendships
1 Samuel 14 – 23; 2 Samuel 1

This Desperado sermon series is for men who have questions about where they are going in life.

Pastor Doug has taught on these things the past few weeks:

- Men and women are created in the image of God.
 - This means the masculine, as well as the feminine are reflections of His image within us.
- Our society has deceived males into believing that masculinity is the problem, not the solution.
- The path to discovering masculinity is found in 2 Timothy 2:1-7.
 - ²The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- Following Jesus enables us to be set free in order to live as a masculine man. Mark 3:20-30

Today: If you want to grow as a man, you must build friendships with other Biblically sound, Spiritually growing, Masculine men. (Same goes for your boys)

- **King David and Prince Jonathan had that in their lives.**
- “And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God” (1 Samuel 23:16)

David and Jonathan – two different men who served the same God.

- Jonathan was a prince.
- David was a shepherd.
- Jonathan had his own armor.
- David had a harp and a slingshot.
- Jonathan grew up in the palace and was trained in the art of war.
- David grew up in the “little town of Bethlehem” and was trained to tend sheep.
- Jonathan was the oldest son and in line to inherit the throne.
- David was the youngest of eight boys and was overlooked by his father.
- Jonathan was of the tribe of Benjamin and in line to be the next king of Israel.
- David the tribe of Judah and was anointed to be the next king in place of Jonathan.
- Despite their differences, they had, arguably, the best friendship in the Bible.

Jonathan and David came from very different backgrounds, but they had a few key things in common that Bonded them together: They were both:

- Warriors.
- Men of faith who served the living God.
- Served God with Courage and Strength.
- They knew they needed each other and were better together than apart.

David and Jonathan had the Bond of a Solid, Biblical Friendship

- Jonathan, the one who came from the “power position” in the friendship, made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.
- They sealed their friendship with an oath.
- Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt (1 Samuel 18:1-4)
- Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever’” (1 Samuel 20:42)
- David was chosen by God and appointed to replace Saul as king of Israel instead of Jonathan, and still Jonathan loved David (1 Samuel 20:42).

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- Only a true friend could make this statement: “You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you.” 1 Samuel 23:17.
- After Jonathan’s death, David wrote him a lament, or funeral dirge, in which he, once again, expressed his deep and undying love:

2 Samuel 1:23-26

“Saul and Jonathan—

in life they were loved and admired,
and in death they were not parted.

They were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery,
who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold.

How the mighty have fallen in battle!

Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother;
you were very dear to me.

Your love for me was wonderful,
more wonderful than that of women.”

Wait, what?

- “Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.”
 - “It is not a lack of love, but a lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages.” F _____ N _____
 - Even pagans know the power of friendship.
- The Bond of Solid, Biblical Friendship among men is life-defining for men who have that with other men.
- The pagan world around us has no idea what we are talking about or defines it in gay terms.
- Over and above looking after each other unselfishly – feels normal to them.
 - In Jonathan’s honor, David cared for his son, Mephibosheth who was lame in both feet, and for who in scripture says he ate at David’s table “like one of the king’s sons” (2 Samuel 9:11)

A few Characteristics of the Bond of Solid Male Friendships

- Mutual Encouragement coupled with spoken and unspoken accountability. (Proverbs 27:17)**
 - ... to stand strong in your commitments: marriage, business, family.
 - ... to stand strong in your belief: ethics, morals, alignments.
- Their friendship is defined by kingdom impact, not worldly yardsticks.**
 - They encourage each other to have kingdom minded goals in all that they do.
- They cheer for each other’s families to succeed/do well as if they were a true Biblical family. (Galatians 6:10)**
 - Doesn’t always need to win, have a better story, make more money or have better things.
- Unselfish with each other. (Philippians 2:3-4)**
 - They are willing to share, to be generous with each other and yet always careful to never “over-ask” of each other.
 - Both will always seek to outgive the other and have a good sense of equilibrium about whose turn it is to pay for lunch.
- They are “man-enough” to define their own relationship.**
 - They don’t let other people define the relationship in work, play, with money or in family.
 - They challenge each other in ways that sometimes makes the women in their lives just a little uncomfortable.

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- c. The women in their lives heartily encourage the friendship, and don't try to manipulate it. Instead they seek to facilitate it.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What, in the story of David and Jonathan, did you not know before today that intrigues you?
2. Do you have anyone in your life with whom you have had a very disparate past but life and faith in God have brought you together?
3. In your relationships with others, which of these characteristics do you have in place?
4. Which of these characteristics would benefit your life if you would bring them into place in your life?