

Sermon Text Discussion 6/19/2016

1 Samuel 20: "Obeying Jesus in a Covenant of Friendship" by Drew Hunter

Overview

This second week of two on friendship with God takes us to 1 Samuel 20, where we see how Scripture holds together two difficult truths: that we are called to diligent obedience while also resting in the richness of God's grace. These truths are evident in the lives and friendship between David and Jonathan, Saul's son. This text shows us:

- 1) Covenantal friendship (20:1-11)
- 2) Unequal friendship (20:12-23)
- 3) Costly friendship (20:24-34)
- 4) Affectionate friendship (20:35-42)

As we reflect on these things, we must realize that if we are going to be a friend *of* Jesus, we have to be a friend *to* Jesus.

Quotations

"If Christ has died for me, I cannot trifle with the evil that killed my best Friend." -Charles Spurgeon

"If God has been, is, and will be such a friend to us, what manner of persons should we be in return to him? My brothers, this is your calling; you are called to be friends of God, see you walk worthily and answerably unto it, so as to fill up the measure of that relation, and observe as far as possibly the laws of friendship that ever were or can be between two friends, for God full well deserves it at your hands. You have entered into a covenant of friendship with God. Make something of it." -Thomas Goodwin

Understanding & Application

- 1) Explain this statement: friendship doesn't begin with us – it begins with God.
- 2) John 15:13-14 says, "Greater love has no one that this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." Do we have to obey Jesus *before* we can become his friend? What scripture can you point to in order to defend your answer?
- 3) Take a moment to reflect on your friendship with God. Do you tend to over-emphasize or soften obedience? Where is your *understanding* of friendship with God lacking? Where is your *practice* of friendship with God lacking? Where is your *desire* for friendship with God lacking?
- 4) How is covenantal friendship different than consumer friendship? When you consider your friendship with God and others, which one are you most often practicing?
- 5) How is our friendship with God asymmetrical?
- 6) Is your friendship with God affectionate? Men – what does it look like for a man to be affectionate in his friendship with God?
- 7) Do you think of obedience to Jesus exclusively in terms of being a servant, or is there a flavor of friendship to your obedience?