

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 10/28/2018

1 Samuel 18-20 – “Friendship with Christ and the Cost of Discipleship” by Drew Hunter

Overview

This sermon is the eleventh in our series on the book of 1 Samuel. These chapters help show us what it looks like to follow God's unexpected king through Jonathan's true friendship, marked with genuine love toward David. This is the opposite of the behavior we see in Saul, whose envy towards David leads him down a dark and destructive path. All of this points to what friendship with Christ (the greater David) should look like and the heavy costs and opposition we may face for being his disciples.

The sermon text was outlined as follows:

- I. The love of friendship with the Christ (18:1-7)
- II. The opposite of friendship with the Christ (18:8-19:24)
- III. The cost of friendship with the Christ (20)

Quotations

“Envy clouds thought, clobbers generosity, precludes any hope of serenity and ends in shriveling the heart. Of the seven deadly sins, only envy is no fun at all.” (Joseph Epstein, *Envy*).

“If the world hates you, know that it hated me before it hated you.” And “If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” John 15:18,20 (ESV)

Understanding & Application

- 1) Three true marks of friendship found in these chapters are (1) a bond marked by (2) affection and (3) constancy. How do you see these marks in your existing friendships? How do you see them in your friendship with Christ? What can be done to foster and strengthen these marks?
- 2) Drew mentioned a historian's comments about how the love between Jonathan and David was like the type of love shown in the correspondence between men around the time of the founding of our country. The reason this type of love between male friends seems strange to us now may be due to our culture having sexualized the concept of love. How can we begin to reclaim a biblical concept of love in friendship (especially between men)?
- 3) In these chapters we see the damage that can be caused by watering the seeds of envy. Why is the sin of envy so rarely discussed and confessed by Christ followers? Can you detect any seeds of envy in your heart? If so, consider following the steps given in the sermon: acknowledge it, identify the root, and trust it to God's sovereign care.
- 4) Drew mentioned several examples of how the path of radical obedience can be difficult. How have you experienced the cost of following Jesus? What encouragement can we glean from these chapters and elsewhere in scripture to continue to seek after Christ in the face of opposition?
- 5) What are the implications of Christ being both our king and our friend? How is this special relationship different than being one or the other?