

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 10, 2025

A Friend in Jesus

In one of Aesop's Fables, two men were traveling together, when a bear suddenly met them on their path. One of them quickly climbed into a tree and concealed himself in the branches. The other, fearing that the bear might attack, fell flat on the ground. When the Bear lumbered over, he nudged the man with his snout as he sniffed him. The man held his breath and feigned the appearance of death. The Bear, who prefers to kill his dinner, soon left him. When it was safe, the other traveler descended from the tree and began to tease his friend. "What was that Bear whispering in your ear." "He gave me this advice," his companion replied. "Never travel with a friend who deserts you at the first sign of danger." (Fresh Illustrations.)

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." (Proverbs 17:17 NASB)

"A man of too many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24; NASU)

"All the brothers of a poor man hate him; how much more do his friends abandon him! He pursues them with words, but they are gone. He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good." (Proverbs 19:7-8; NASU)

"Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away." (Proverbs 27:10; NASU)

"True friendship is vividly portrayed with David and Jonathan; translates itself into deeds (vs. 5). absolutely frank (vs. 9). Warns of danger (vs. 9). Devoted (vss. 41-42)." Sermon Illustrations from the Bible: Topically Arranged.

The best way to start and sustain a genuine friendship is first to become a friend of the One who died for the purpose of becoming our friends (John 15:13). When we accept His desire to be our friend we become like Him (Galatians 2:20) and as His disciples we are spiritually empowered to love one another; "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35; NASU) And He said to him, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39; Philippians 2:1-5; NASU) To not do this is to walk in darkness (1 John 2:9-10).



UPCOMING Events



YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MONTH — AUGUST 2025
August is Youth Month. Encourage your youth to get involved in the Youth Praise Team, Urban Missions Team, Puppet Ministry, Drill Team and other Youth Ministries. Contact Brandon Crenshaw or Ms. Sylvia Edwards for details on Children's & Youth Month.



YOUTH CHOIR—
Youth, do you have a passion for singing and music? Rehearsals are every Thursday at 6PM. Sign up online or contact Chris Kinsey or Melita Washington at melita.washington@lwfellowshipchurch.org.



YOUTH & ADULT —AUGUST 16TH
Join us on August 16th at 10am for Coding Camp, we will cover the basics of AI Coding, and is designed to be an engaging and accessible introduction to the world of programming and AI. This workshop will cater to a wide range of skill levels, from complete beginners to those with coding experience. Register online and contact Kenneth Dabney for info.



MEN'S MINISTRY—SAT. AUGUST 16TH
Join the Men's Ministry, Saturday Aug. 16th at 11AM as we watch the film *Courageous*, a gripping film about 4 men fighting for their family and standing firm in their faith. Afterwards, there will be small group discussions. Contact Ian Moore, Sr. at ianmooresr@gmail.com for more details.



Deacon Family Fellowship & Ministry Fair —
Lets end Youth Month 2025 with a bang on Sunday, August 31st. We'll have our next Deacon Family Fellowship and Ministry Fair! Join us for one service at 9:30AM and then fellowship, eat, and learn about a new ministry at Living Word. Contact your Deacon family for information on how to serve and what to bring.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Announcements
- Opening Song
- Communion
- Welcome Video
- Praise & Worship
- Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

- Visitor's Welcome
- Special Music
- "Friends"

1 Samuel 18:1-5; 20:41-42

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:15 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY e 7:30 PM

Friends

1 Samuel 18: 1-5; 20:41-42


A. Be Intentional (18:1-5)

- 1. David’s meeting with Saul lasted a long time.
- 2. David’s conversation with Saul was continuous. It addressed Saul’s questions relevant to the events surrounding Goliath’s death. Jonathan had to have been with them.
- 3. When Jonathan heard David speak to his father, he personally identified with David and was utterly impressed by the person David demonstrated himself to be. Jonathan became deeply committed to sharing his life with David because David proved to be a man of faith, committed to God, willing to put his life on the line for God’s people.
- 4. A friend is someone whose character represents a commitment to the Lord’s agenda and to the Lord’s people. When a person chooses to be a friend of God, there is no way they would not be a friend to anyone else (John 13:34-35; 15:13-17) because they would be a person of character. This is Biblically a true soulmate.
- 5. When a person is fully committed to sustaining a relationship with another person, it does not mean there will not be differences. Because they are fully committed to the relationship, they stick with the other person until it is sorted out (1 Sam. 19-21). They trust the person’s character as the person trusts in theirs.
- 6. The love spoken here originates from the person’s mind, not their emotions. This is why nothing gets in the way of two people, who are committed to the Lord (disciples abiding in Christ; friendship with Christ and true disciples; John 15:1-10, 13; 13:34-35), working together cohesively. It is not that they will not be compassionate towards one another; this love grows because it begins with a commitment to love God first (Matthew 22:36-40). This is why two individuals who are Christ and the church, washing in the Word (Ephesians 5:25) grow to be caring and nurturing to each other (Ephesians 5:28-31). Satan flips this concept around, like he did with Eve in the garden (Gen. 3:1-7), and that is why so many people are damaged today.
- 7. Jonathan, on his own initiative, solidified his relationship with David by ratifying an agreement that would last forever.
- 8. Jonathan decided to care for David as he would for himself. Jonathan wanted David to have access to all that was available to him as the king’s son. Now David is loved as a brother.
- 9. Because Jonathan desired David to be cared for just as he was, especially with David now having a significant role in the military, Jonathan generously, and permanently gave David his robe (presents that David now says in the kingdom of Saul), and all of his armor (David now experiences the same protection he has in battle).
- 10. In all of David’s engagements, he effectively and continuously demonstrated wisdom and excellent decision-making that led to productive results each time. He vividly showed that the Lord was with him.
- 11. When we choose to be a friend of God, we are better equipped to have productive relationships with others.

B. Be Kind (20:41-42)

- 1. David threw himself on Jonathan with no plans to stop. He knew he was safe with Jonathan because Jonathan didn’t give him up to his father. David knew how much it cost Jonathan to protect him.
- 2. David viewed Jonathan above him and a person whose leadership he must honor.
- 3. They both knew that this was the last time they were going to see each other. As a result, they displayed a powerful display of distress and sorrow. David displayed this more than Jonathan.
- 4. Jonathan bids David peace and that there will be no strife between them.
- 5. The oath and pledges that they made to each other were based on the reputation and fame of the Lord God. When God rules our lives, kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.
- 6. Notice that David did not go into the city as Jonathan did. David was going to remain on the run from

MINDSET



PSLAM 119:10-11, 105

Sermon Series by Dr. Paul Cannings

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Carol Dickerson & family, Leo Banks & family, the family of Beverly Shaw, and Natividad Smith & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, and Sylvia Edwards.

