

I personally do not like the feeling of something sticky on my hands and fingers, almost to the point of being somewhat OCD. What is OCD? It is an anxiety disorder in which people have unwanted and repeated thoughts, feelings, ideas, sensations (obsessions), or behaviors that make them feel driven to do something (compulsions).

I have a hunch some of you have demonstrated similar OCD characteristics while eating today: no food touching, food consumed in a specific order, etc.

The topic we are going to address today may feel a bit “sticky” to some men. It is a subject with which some men struggle to deal with emotionally and relationally—**FRIENDSHIP.**

As men, we like good and positive associations in life. We show up, eat up, listen up and man up, but don’t ask us to share, analyze, discuss or try to tell you how we “feel” about friends. With this in mind, let’s continue our study into the life of David.

After David’s phenomenal victory over Goliath, David suddenly faced another giant of adversity. It wasn’t a tall and burly man like Goliath, but something small and hidden.

Read 1 Samuel 18:6-9.

This was David’s “Justin Beiber moment.” David skyrocketed to success through the eyes of the people while envy and jealousy rose in the heart of King Saul. No one demonstrated greater loyalty and support than David. He risked his life to defend Saul’s kingdom. However in 1 Samuel 18:8, we began to see scorn and jealousy take root in Saul’s heart toward David.

Isn’t it strange how some of life’s toughest trials come after some of life’s biggest victories?

“A real friend is one who will tell you your faults and failures in prosperity and will assist you with his hand and heart in adversity.” —Samuel Johnson

Jonathan, Saul’s son, became David’s friend. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4.

Do you see how this complicates things for David? David delivers to Saul the greatest victory in the kingdom’s history. But Saul is jealous because of David’s sudden and celebrated success. Saul’s son, the heir apparent, connects with David and they become best friends.

And there is one other little fact—Israel demanded a king.

Read 1 Samuel 8:6–9:2.

An earthly king was not God’s plan, but God permitted it. Saul was chosen because he looked “kingly,” but he was an impulsive, impetuous and arrogant man.



### **FRIENDSHIP IN THE PLACE OF OPPOSITION**

Saul was accepted by the people but ultimately rejected by God (1 Samuel 16). David, the one who seemed least likely to succeed—less kingly in appearance and too young to rule—was anointed to be Saul’s successor.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7. We learn the “cover” doesn’t tell the whole story.

As we continue to unfold the scroll of David’s life, we discover David needed a friend.

It is often easy to be isolated from others in our self-absorbed, self-focused world today. We ignore virtually everyone and everything, and are often obsessed with our own thing: headphones, cellphones, etc. Little effort is given to making and developing friendships and even less to being a friend, but friends are important.

Read Proverbs 27:17.

In 1 Samuel 18:3, the word, *covenant*, is used. This is not just a casual relationship, but a very deep commitment to the well being of David, his life and future.



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Friendship is a shared commitment for the well being of another. Every man needs a few good friends for the social, emotional, personal and spiritual aspects of life.

David was an unusual man in that he was both a warrior and a musician. He was living in the palace after the victory over Goliath and special provisions were also given to his family. One day as David was playing the lyre for Saul, Saul hurled his spear at David. 1 Samuel 19:10 tells us that "Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall."

David knows he cannot stay with Saul. The story becomes tense as David evades spears and conspiracies (one conspiracy involved sending David ill-equipped into battle with the Philistines). However, all attempts failed. Why? One primary reason was because of Jonathan, David's friend.

Jonathan's friendship with David provides examples of several important elements of friendship I would like for us to consider today.

### **To Have Friends, You Must Be a Friend**

Read 1 Samuel 19:3-4.

"Clothing possessed something of the wearer's personality... to receive any part of the dress that had been worn by a sovereign or his oldest son and heir was deemed the highest honor that could be conferred on a subject... Jonathan, the king's son, gave all the material gifts. David, the poor man's son, gave only his love and respect."

—Merrill Unger

Initiative and effort need to start with you.

### **To Have Friends, You Must Be Loyal**

Jonathan was in a difficult place with his dad, the king, but Jonathan remained a faithful friend to David. Jonathan was not a "fair weather friend" or "two faced." He stood with David and on numerous occasions made efforts to defend him.

1 Samuel 19:4-5      Risked a confrontation

1 Samuel 20:30-33      Risked his own safety

Friendship is not always convenient. You probably will never have to face a "spear-chunking" king, but being a friend may require facing the heat and standing in the gap for your friend.

### **To Have Friends, You Must Be Willing to Sacrifice**

Jonathan realized life doesn't stay the same.

Read 1 Samuel 20:35-42

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. —Proverbs 17:17 ESV

True friends celebrate your victories, support you in adversities, challenge you toward responsibilities, defend you from iniquities and release you for the priorities and activities you alone must fulfill.

Up to this point, we can use three words to summarize David's life: fame, friendship, fugitive. David is now on the run. Come back next week as we continue the saga.

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