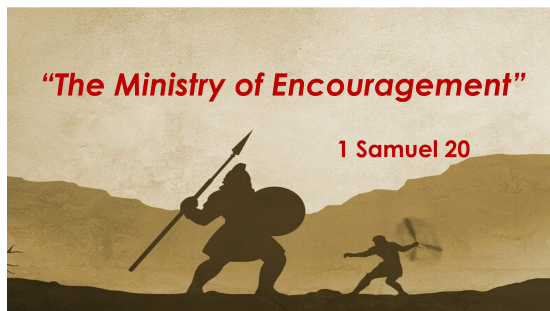


Barnabas – “the encourager” called that in Acts 4:36..

When you need encouragement...

You’re going through a rough time...

- What works for you?
- What encourages you?
- How do you encourage your spouse?
- How do you encourage your children?
- Do we know how to encourage someone else?
- What do we do? Do you even know?
- Do you think the reason why many people don’t encourage others is that they don’t know how? Feel helpless in giving it.



A key text is 2 Corinthians 1:3-4:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

This passage shows us there is not much to it.

- It’s not really that hard.
- What’s most important is a heart for God.
- Here is, in this passage, a clear picture of human loyalty
- Here is a clear picture of human selflessness.

Jonathan/David their last major time together...

- It is very dramatic, lots of drama and human emotion.
- Lots of good choices,
- And bad behavior – (as we see in domestic violence).

Yet in all this narrative, there is a lesson to be learned!

- About sticking with truth.
- Being faithful to God.
- And faithful to your friends.
- We see God preparing David.
- And Jonathan’s faithfulness as he is used as an instrument of grace in the life of David.

In this passage let’s see the path of encouragement...

Let’s note the events of this story to help us understand discouragement, fear, anger and despair, and one person helping another with these issues, problems.

Jonathan used as an instrument of Grace:

- I. The need for an encourager (vs.1-3)
 - A. David’s need
 - B. Jonathan, the encourager
- II. Jonathan & David’s loyalty
 - A. Jonathan listens (v.4)
 - B. David proposes a sure-fire test –
 - C. Jonathan & David’s insecurities (v.8-9)
(v.11ff) David is now silent: Jonathan talks: 162 Hebrew words 4 quotes in 13 verses. Jonathan uses God’s name Yahweh 9 times. Jonathan then asks for reassurance from David (vs.14-17)
 - D. Back to the plan (vs.18-23)
The plan is enacted
- III. Saul the imitation
 - A. Saul the pious
 - B. Saul the man (his anger)
- IV. A tough sad farewell
 - A. Clandestine communication
 - B. A risky meeting - why the secrecy, then this?

This is tough, what do they have to look forward to?

All that can be said, “Go in peace”

An expression of good will: “I’ll never forget you, I promise. The Lord allows our separation, but you will always be in my heart, never forget what we had.”

Conclusion:

- What a story of an encourager! An encourager is there:
- And says, “Let’s talk”
- Corrects wrong thinking, wrong statements;
- Reassures love and friendship
- Goes through the grieving also
- And goodbyes are never easy
- There is grieving/emotions there are holes left in lives...
- Are you an encourager?

