

Refiner's Fire – How we Become People after God's Own Heart – Week Three

Real Friends Work through Painful Problems

1 Samuel 20:1-42

Introduction: When you're in the refiner's fire, God is going to use a small cluster of true friends. But the kind of friendship God uses is not superficial friendship but kingdom based friendship. Real friends address thorny problems and they work them through to a good conclusion.

1. *THE STORY UNFOLDS – David and Jonathan confront a problem that could have destroyed their friendship. 1 Samuel 20:1-42*

- A. *Scene 1: In a house* – David brings up a thorny issue in their friendship: loyalty. 20:1-10
- B. *Scene 2: In the field* – Jonathan reinforces his loyalty to David. 20:11-23
- C. *Scene 3: At a table* – Jonathan endures abuse under the anger of his father. 20:24-34
- D. *Scene 4: Back in the field* – Jonathan and David say their farewells. 20:35-42

2. *THE CRUX OF THE STORY – Real friends have an internal gyroscope that guides them as they work through problems.*

- A. First key: They hang together because they have a kingdom-based relationship. 18:3; 20:8
- B. Second key: They speak with total honesty, and yet with immense mutual respect.
- C. Third key: They switch back and forth in their leadership of the relationship.
- D. Fourth key: They endure pain for the sake of the relationship.

3. *HOW THE STORY ENDS – Jonathan and David remain faithful until death. 1 Samuel 23:16-18; 2 Samuel 1:17 ff*