



Sermon Discussion Questions: July 27, 2025

Together by Divine Design

Niki's Spoken Word

1. Sadly, Niki's traumatic experiences are probably common among prisoners. How do we reach people who have been hardened by trauma?
2. Jesus' selection for the first two missionaries to Gentiles were: 1) the woman at the well and 2) the demoniac – two people who had obviously experienced severe trauma. He saw their potential. How do we see potential when it is hidden? How do we make people aware of their own potential as members of the body of Christ?
3. Trauma is common. Coping with trauma in self-destructive ways is common. How can we use Christian education to enable people to cope with trauma and adversity in healthy ways?

Call to Worship: Romans 12:16-18

4. These passages are about the value of community. But are there times when we are better off alone?
5. Verses 12 and 13 are about prevailing in conflicts because of community. Where do we see this in scripture?
6. Share a personal story in which you prevailed against a sin, or had a victory in some situation, because of help of one or more people.

Sermon: 1 Samuel 18

I. An unlikely friendship – Verses 1-4

7. How does God's nature demonstrate and proclaim the importance of community?
8. How is the value of community proclaimed in creation?
9. What factor made the friendship of David and Jonathan extremely unlikely?

10. Give another example from scripture of unlikely friendships.
11. How would you reply to the assertion that David and Jonathan's friendship had an erotic component?
12. What were the political implications of Jonathan giving David his garment and weapons?

II. God is with us even when others are not – Verses 5-16

13. Where else in a scripture do we read of the kind of jealousy we see in verse 8?
14. Pastor Paul said that human jealousy is unable to diminish divine favor. Where do we see that principle manifested in this chapter?
15. In verse 17, King Saul plots a particularly cowardly way of murdering David. Where in scripture do we see a similar plot?

III. Providential positioning through marriage – Verses 17-30

16. If God is with us, our enemies are _____.
17. Pastor Paul said that people clinging to their sins will resent people united to Jesus. Why?
18. The sermon closed with three points: State them.
 - a. Hint: When contemplating action, with what should we be most concerned?
 - b. Hint: Relative role of circumstances.
 - c. Hint: Viewing Jonathan and David's relationship as an archetype

Prayer Points:

- Do I view my friends as part of God's good plans for my life? (Thank God for that!)
- Do I have the right ordering of relationships? (God first, everything else second.)
- Pray for the marriages in our church (including your own if you are married) that they would be part of God's goodness for those in the marriages, and for others.