



**Lesson 53 (1 Samuel 23:14-18): Best Friends Forever**

Read Romans 1:11-12. What does Paul long to have happen?

Read Colossians 4:7-9. Why did Paul send Tychicus?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:9-12. Why did Paul labor and toil among the people?

What behavior of Paul's does he liken to a father interacting with his children?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. What does Paul charge the people to continue doing?

Now read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10. In light of these verses, why is encouragement so important?

Read Hebrews 6:17-18. What do we have encouragement to hold on to? What is that hope?

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5. Why did Paul send Timothy? Who was Paul concerned about here? (Hint: it wasn't his own circumstance or suffering.)

Read Psalm 63. This Psalm was written when David was in the wilderness of Judah. We don't know if this was before or after Jonathan came to him, but look at where David is focused here: on God. Who does David seek, with every fiber of his being? Why? (Verse 3) What will satisfy David's soul?

As you spend time with God today, consider all of the above verses and how often we are charged with exhorting and encouraging each other, reminding each other to stand firm in the faith, and pointing each other, with love, back to God's Word. Look back at those verses and consider how "other" focused the

people were, wanting to encourage their brothers and sisters in Christ...even when they were suffering trials of all kinds.

Paul, especially, felt the burden of encouraging others as he languished in prison; his heart hurt at the thought of his brothers and sisters being distraught for him. Paul kept pointing the people back to God; back to the reason that he was in that cell, and back to the hope that they have. Consider that hope today.

Consider your behavior as you join with other believers. Do you come together to lift each other up and encourage each other...or to complain about the music or the sermon?

Ask God to help you be an exhorter and an encourager to your brothers and sisters in Christ, and ask Him to help you to keep your eyes on HIM first and foremost in your relationships as well as in every other aspect of your life.