

When You Know You Have A True Friend

“The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself . . . he loved him as he loved his own life” (1 Samuel 18:2; 20:17).

A True Friend Sees Beyond Himself

- *Jonathan made a covenant with David (18:3-4).*
- *He gave David his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt, in essence pronouncing David as the next king.*
- *Later, David bowed three times to Jonathan in gratitude for saving his life (20:41). There was no ego in their relationship, but genuine love and care.*

A True Friend Stands With You

- *“Saul was David’s enemy continually” (18:29).*
- *“Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father” (19:4).*
- *“Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” (20:32).*
- *A true friend is there whenever you need them.*

A True Friend Is Always Missed

- *“They wept together, but David wept the more” (20:41).*
- *“Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in safety, the Lord will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever’” (20:42).*
- *“Jonathan went to David and encouraged him in God, and said, ‘Do not be afraid, you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you’” (23:16-17).*

A True Friend Keeps His Word

- *In 2 Samuel 9 King David learned of Jonathan's crippled son, Mephibosheth.*
- *David brought him into his home to eat at his table and become a member of his family.*
- *Even after Jonathan's death, David kept his word that he would care for Jonathan's descendants.*

Take Home Lessons

- *To have a good friend you must be a good friend (Prov. 18:24); do not expect more from them than you are willing to give them.*
- *We must be wise in choosing our true friendships (2 Cor. 6:14).*
- *We must always remember there is no greater privilege than to be called a “friend of God” (James 2:23).*