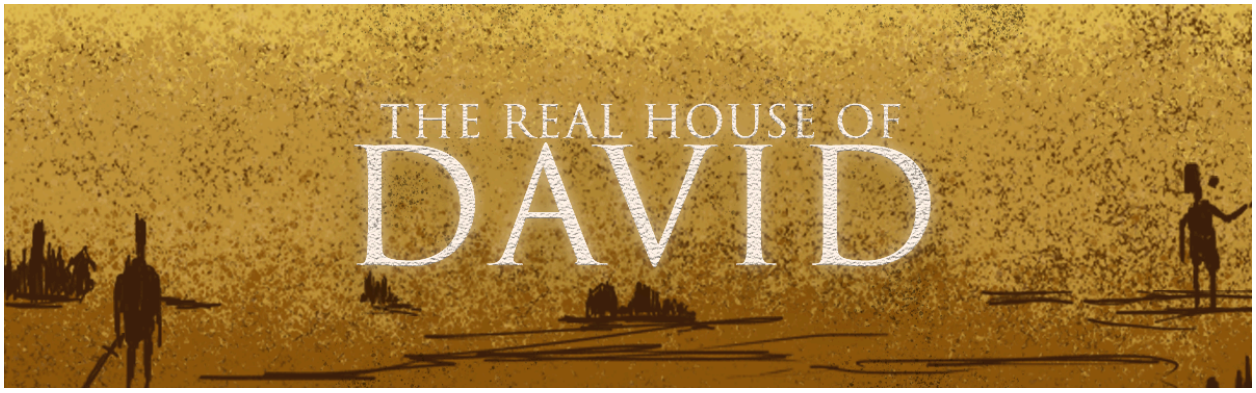


CHOOSE THE RIGHT FRIENDS

1 Samuel 18-20

- *"David met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them . . . . Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. . . . Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike."* (1 Samuel 18:1-5)
- **David experienced favor with God and people which brought him awards and accolades; but his greatest blessing was his friendship with Jonathan.**
- **Good and godly friendships are of great value and importance in our lives.**
- ***What's my definition of a good friend?***
- *"A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need."* (Proverbs 17:17)
- *"There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."* (Proverbs 18:24)
- **Success can bring us friendships, but can also turn "friends" into enemies.**
- *"David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the LORD was with him. When Saul recognized this, he became even more afraid of him."* (1 Samuel 18:15)
- **Whether things are going good or not-so-good with us, we're all going to need to have faithful friends who stand with us in our lives.**
- ***What do we learn about true friendships from the life of David and Jonathan?***

True Friends Are Willing To:

SACRIFICE FOR ONE ANOTHER

- *"Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow and belt."* (1 Samuel 18:3-4)
- **If people aren't willing to sacrifice for us or stand up for us, they're acquaintances rather than friends.**
- Jesus said - *"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."* (John 15:13)
- **Real friends love and support us in sacrificial ways, not just because of what we can do for them.**

True Friends Are Willing To:

<u>CHALLENGE</u> ONE ANOTHER

- *"Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, told him what his father was planning. 'Tomorrow morning,' he warned him, 'you must find a hiding place out in the fields. I'll ask my father to go out there with me, and I'll talk to him about you. then I'll tell you everything I can find out.'"* (1 Samuel 19:1-3)
- **We must speak up and warn our friends when they are making a bad decision or setting themselves up for failure.**
- *"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."* (Proverbs 27:17)
- **When iron sharpens iron, sparks are going to fly.**
- *"Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy."* (Proverbs 27:6)
- **When we confront a friend and they respond negatively or with anger we must remain patient, gracious, and consistent.**
- *"We will speak the truth in love . . ."* (Ephesians 4:15)

True Friends Are Willing To:

<u>ADVOCATE</u> FOR ONE ANOTHER

- "*<u>The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him</u>. 'The king must not sin against his servant David,' Jonathan said. 'He's never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could. Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill the Philistine giant and how the LORD brought a great victory to all Israel as a result?'"* (1 Samuel 19:4-5)
- **A true friend will always defend us when we are criticized by others.**
- "Never explain. Your friends do not need it, and your enemies will not believe you anyway." - Elbert Hubbard
- **The character of a person is manifested in how they talk about others when they are not around.**

- *"There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."* (Proverbs 18:24)

True Friends Are Willing To:

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

- *"'How have I offended your father that he is so determined to kill me?' 'That's not true!' Jonathan protested. 'You're not going to die.'"* (1 Samuel 20:1-2)
- **We're all going to experience discouraging times when we feel like the world is against us and we're not going to make it (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).**
- **Good friends help us overcome discouraging and dark feelings.**
- *"The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense."* (Proverbs 27:9)
- **Jonathan encouraged David with truth and love when David experienced his darkest thoughts, and we all need encouragers like that in our lives.**
- Paul - *"Encourage each other and build each other up."* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

True Friends Are Willing To:

STAY LOYAL TO ONE ANOTHER

- David - *"Show me this loyalty as my sworn friend - for we made a solemn pact before the Lord - or kill me yourself if I have sinned against your father. But please don't betray me to him!"* (1 Samuel 20:8)
- "*A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need."* (Proverbs 17:17)
- **Betrayal from a close friend is a difficult wound to heal, but we must do so, so that bitterness doesn't capture our lives.**
- *"Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many."* (Hebrews 12:15)
- **Bitterness and offense will rob us of peace and joy in our life, and will decimate us emotionally, relationally and spiritually.**
- *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."* (Ephesians 4:31-32)

- *"Both of them were in tears as they embraced each other and said good-bye . . . At last Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn loyalty to each other in the LORD's name. The LORD is the witness of a bond between us and our children forever.'"* (1 Samuel 20:41-42)
- ***Who are some of my best friends, and what are some ways that I need to express my appreciation to them?***
- *"A man who has friends must himself be friendly."* (Proverbs 18:24 NKJV)

- **The fastest way to find a true friend is to be a true friend.**
- Jesus - *“ There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are My friends if you do what I command.”* (John 15:13-14)
- “We often treat Jesus the way Saul treated David. We want Him to slay giants and sing evil spirits away, but we don’t want him to be King.” - A.W. Tozer
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***