

How to Be a True Friend

1 Samuel 19

Introduction:

1. Proverbs 17:17 teaches, “*A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*”
2. There is nothing like a true friend. True, biblical friends are not easy to come by; they are rare. Do you know how you gain a true friend? Become a true friend! Proverbs 18:24
3. The concept of friendship is all throughout the Bible. Jesus said to his disciples, “*Henceforth I call you not servants... but I have called you friends...*” John 15:15
 - The apostle Paul had many friends according to Acts 19:31 and Acts 27:3.
4. Here in 1 Samuel 19, David is in constant danger because King Saul has issued a death warrant against David (vs. 1). King Saul keeps trying to take David's life, but Saul does not succeed because David has friends.
5. Of course, his best friend was the Lord, who is the unseen hand protecting David all throughout this chapter. But God uses David's friends each time. What lessons we learn about friendship in this chapter! Do you desire true friends? What are the marks of a true friend?

First, a true friend always tells you the truth. vs. 1-3

1. Saul now goes public with his desire to see David dead (vs. 1). But Jonathan, Saul's son, was one of David's dearest friends (18:1, 3). Jonathan proves his friendship by warning David of his dad's wrath. vs. 2
2. This was not what David wanted to hear, but it was what David **needed** to hear. I'm sure it hurt David and devastated him inside, yet he had to know the truth.
3. Jonathan told David, “I'm going to go and talk to my dad while you stay in hiding, and I will tell you everything he says.”
4. True friends always tell you the truth, even if it is not what you want to hear. But they do it out of love and concern. Proverbs 27:6
5. Jonathan saw that David was walking into real danger, so he got David aside and warned him. This is what a true friend does. If a friend sees that you are walking into danger (maybe due to sin, bad choices, or other people), he tells you face to face.
6. If you mislead people, and don't shoot straight, you will never be a friend that others can trust. A true friend is a person that, when he tells you something, you know it's true. John 15:15

Second, a true friend strives to be a peacemaker. vs. 4-7

1. Jonathan was such a great friend. He went to bat to his dad for David. He wanted so much for there to be peace, not contention and strife. Read verses 4-7.
2. He “*spake good of David unto Saul.*” vs. 4
3. Jonathan plays the role of a mediator, and brought David to Saul. vs. 7

4. Do you know why so many people can't seem to keep a friend? There are two reasons:
 - They have a loose tongue that is quick to find fault and speak evil of others. Proverbs 16:28, 17:9
 - They possess a contentious spirit. Proverbs 26:20-22
5. Unfortunately, some people seem to thrive on negativity and contention. This kind of person must overcome this fleshly tendency through Christ, or they will never be true friends, nor will they be able to keep a friend. Romans 14:19
6. A true friend is a peacemaker. Ephesians 4:2-3

Third, a true friend is always there in the time of need. vs. 8-17

1. Israel went to war again in verse 8, and David once again was a war hero. That evil spirit of jealousy and envy once again came upon Saul, and he again tried to kill David. vs. 9-10
2. David fled to his house, but Saul had men watching him, ready to kill him the next morning (vs. 11). David's wife (Michal) came up with a creative plan to deliver David from her father, King Saul. vs. 12-16
3. By helping David, Michal was putting her own neck on the line. It didn't matter that she was Saul's daughter. Do you remember when he was prepared to kill his own son, Jonathan, in chapter 14?
4. You may say, "But I thought this was a message about friendship. Michal was David's wife." Your best friend in the whole world should be your spouse. When you're in a time of need, your spouse should be the one you know you can trust to be there for you.
5. Many people want a friendship that is one way. That is, they want the other person to give and give, but when it's their turn to give, they aren't so interested. Proverbs 17:17, 18:24; John 15:13
6. Being a true friend sometimes means sacrifice. It means giving of yourself sacrificially and helping others. Have you ever had a friend that just wants to suck every bit of life out of you, but isn't interested in giving anything back in the relationship?
7. This isn't Christ-like and this isn't true friendship. A friend is always there in the time of need. 1 John 3:16-17

Fourth, a true friend provides a spiritual refuge. vs. 18-24

1. David is on the run again in verse 18. To whom does he flee? Who else? Good old Samuel!
2. Samuel was faithful, consistent, and a prayer warrior. Saul sent men to arrest David, but they couldn't. Why? Every time they would come close to Samuel, the Spirit of God would overcome them, and they would begin to prophesy and praise God. vs. 19-21
3. Finally, Saul decided to go himself. He went there with evil intent, but before he knew it, he was also overtaken by God's Spirit and he was joining in on the praise and worship service that old Samuel was leading. vs. 22-23

- Saul was so overtaken by God's Spirit, he took off his armor and royal robes, and was laying prostrate in worship of Almighty God (he wasn't completely unclothed). vs. 24
4. God providentially protected David through Samuel's spiritual intervention and gave David time to escape again from King Saul.
 5. When life knocks you down and you feel like you are running for your life, you'd better have a friend that knows God and walks with God that can be there for you. A friend can be there to pray for you, to share God's Word with you, and to give you good spiritual counsel and advice.
 6. So many times, people will have friends that they party with, drink with, and sin with. But when life knocks you down, they are nowhere to be found. They have nothing to say, nothing to comfort you with, no hope, no consolation, and no prayers.
 7. When you're choosing your friends, you'd better choose people that will lift you up spiritually and edify you, and cause you to want to walk closer with the Lord, not pull you down in your walk with Christ.
 8. David knew that Samuel was a true friend and would provide a spiritual refuge in this time of need.

In Conclusion:

1. True friends are hard to come by, and even when you think you have found one, you really don't know for sure until trials and trouble come your way.
2. Have you been a true friend to others? Can they rely on you to tell them the truth every time and in every situation? Are you there in the time of need? Do you have a peacemaking spirit?
3. Here is a great question: Are you a spiritual encouragement to your friends? This only comes through first trusting Christ as your Savior and knowing that you are a child of God, and second, having your own personal walk with the Lord daily.