

True Friends Outline – Mike Baird

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Fools Gold

- How can you tell real gold from fool's gold?
 - Stands up to tests
- How can you tell a real friend from not?

Jonathan & David

- 1 Samuel 18:1-4
 - Jonathan loved David and becomes his friend
 - He was not jealous in spite of the honor David received
 - He was not jealous in spite of him being next in line to be king
 - He showed support by giving him clothes & weapons
- 1 Samuel 18:1-16
 - King Saul was jealous of the people's love for David and tries to kill him
- 1 Samuel 19:1-10
 - Jonathan tried to persuade Saul not to kill David
- 1 Samuel 20:1-5, 12-24, 27, 31-42
 - Jonathan warns David of Saul's intent
 - Jonathan and David make a covenant of friendship
- 1 Samuel 23:14-18
 - David is strengthened by Jonathan while hiding from Saul
- 1 Samuel 22:9-10,16-20
 - David spares Saul's life, and Saul recognizes David's righteousness
- 2 Samuel 1:4, 11-12
 - David mourns the deaths of Jonathan and Saul
- 2 Samuel 9:1-3,6-7,13

- David fulfills his covenant of friendship by caring for Jonathan's son
- **Conclusions:**
 - 1 Samuel 20:23
"The Lord be between thee and me for ever"
 - The story of Jonathan and David reminds us that true friendship and love bring us closer to our friends and to God
 - The story of Saul reminds us that jealousy and hatred can consume us and lead us away from our friends and from God

How can you tell a true friend?

- **Loves unceasingly**
 - Proverbs 17:17
"A friend loveth at all times"
- **Loyal**
 - D&C 121:9
"Thy friends do stand by thee, and they shall hail thee again with warm hearts and friendly hands"
 - Never speak ill or unkind words of your friend
- **Takes us toward the Savior not away**
 - Robert D Hales
"In recognizing a true friend we must look for two important elements in that friendship:
A true friend makes it easier for us to live the gospel by being around him.
Similarly, a true friend does not make us choose between his way and the Lord's way. A true friend will help us return with honor." ("The Aaronic Priesthood: Return with Honor," Ensign, May 1990, 39)

How to become a true friend

(Some of these are from Kristi McLane, "Idea List: Becoming a True Friend," New Era, Mar. 2003, 41)

- ***Give of yourself***
 - John 15:13
"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"

- ***Bear one another's burdens***
 - Mosiah 18:8-9
"Ye are ... willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light;...
Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort"

- ***Focus outside yourself***

Although it's tempting to talk about yourself, try to focus on what others have to say. People love to talk about themselves, and amazing things happen when you ask questions and listen.

- ***Say what you mean and mean what you say***

Before you ask how someone is doing or attempt to serve up a compliment, make sure you mean it. Others know when you are being insincere (see 2 Cor. 1:12).

- ***Look for the good***

People's faults are often more noticeable than their positive traits. If you catch yourself thinking negative thoughts about someone, try to replace them with good thoughts.

- ***Stand up for truth***

As Elder Eyring said, a true friend must testify. It is important that we stand for what we know is right in our actions, words, and deeds. By not compromising our standards, others will know we won't expect them to compromise theirs.

- ***Serve***

The more we serve, the more we love. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said, "The compassion of Christlike friends deeply touches and changes our lives" (Ensign, Nov. 1997, 32).

- **Remember the Golden Rule**

As simple as it may seem, do unto others as you would have others do unto you really works (see Matt. 7:12). Show others that you love them by being respectful and kind to them.

- **Keep a Christ like view**

We should learn to love others as Christ loves us. Remember, “a friend loveth at all times ...”

- Elbert Hubbard

"A friend is one who knows you and loves you just the same." ()

- Arabian Proverb

"A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping, and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away." ()

- To have friend – be a friend

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The only way to have a friend is to be one." ()

Satan is not your friend

- He will not sustain you in the end
 - Korihor
- He desires that you be miserable like he is
 - 2 Nephi 2:27

God will sustain you as a friend

- Isaiah 40:28-31

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."