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SO...WHAT MAKES A GOOD FRIENDSHIP?

God gives us relationships:

- It's interesting in the beginning... (*Gen. 2:18*)
- We need friends! And:
- Some are good.
- Some are great.
- Some are delightful, special.
- Some are difficult,
- Some are trying,
- Some are a pain,
- Some are super needy.

Everyone has friends that abandon them.

- We all have had friends abandon us!
 - The Psalmist did
 - The Apostle Paul did - Demas
 - Jesus did – Judas
 - In William Smith's booklet: "How to Love Difficult People"

Jonathan and David had their struggles...

- They overcame much, and became great friends!!
 - Encouragers to each other!
 - Look at how it started (*17:57-18:1*)
 - And continued in and through the tough times ahead.
- Good friendships start with you!
 - Are you a good friend?

What made this friendship? True, close friendship will have...

Let me give you several principles from this passage...

Will have 6 things...

WHAT MADE THIS FRIENDSHIP?

I. An attitude of acceptance

As Jonathan observes this conversation b/w Saul/Abner/David.

He saw David as needy. [Maybe knew about his background]

He saw David as someone he could help.

He did not see David as what he (David) could do for him (Jonathan).

This is what a true friend is!

Over



- A. What can I do for him? [that person]
- B. Why doesn't Jonathan see David as a rival? *David's standing there with Goliath's head in his hand!!*

David is a hero!

This is a true lack of selfishness.

Jonathan SAW David's character! Not...

This is accepting people who they are, where they are.

Romans 15:7 ... (ACCEPT...receive, welcome into fellowship)

II. Mutual attraction (v.1)

- A. They had much in common
- B. They share deep common interests
- C. They help each other realize God's purpose and potential for their lives.

That's the way friends are, does that describe your friend?

III. An expression of commitment (v.3)

- A. It's a willingness to sacrifice
- B. Defend (*19:4-5,6*)

1 Samuel 19:4-5 ... (emp: Jonathan)

Commitment – Are you willing to commit time and energy etc. to friendship? Is it important enough?

IV. Genuine openness (v.4)

Give away robe and armor of a prince: Why?

1. Act of honor (*Esther 6*)
2. Jonathan was elevating his friend to equality.
3. He was opening his life to his friend. There is a risk in that, vulnerability

V. Appreciative Enjoyment (v.5ff)

- A. Jonathan steps back and delights in David's success, with no bitterness.
- B. The kind that holds others above ourself. – *some are too intense about friendships...*

VI. Concern about meeting needs

- A. Is a constant source of encouragement (*23:15-16*)
- B. Focus meeting other's needs not your own.

1 Samuel 23:15-18 ... (Emp: and I'll be your second-in-command)

CONCLUSION:

- Having a close intimate friend helps us face whatever comes our way.
- Like what it did for David.
- Like what it did for Jonathan. (*20:34*)
 - If you don't have a close friend, ask God...
 - Good friendships start with you.
 - *Are you a good friend?*