

#8 "The Pay-offs of True Friendships"

1. True friendships are a _____.

Proverbs 18:24 (NIV) One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 20:6 (NIV) Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?

2. True friendships _____ us _____.

1 Samuel 20:42 (NIV) Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

2 Kings 2:2 (NIV) Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

2 Kings 2:4 (NIV) Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

2 Kings 2:6 (NIV) Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

2 Kings 2:9 (NIV) When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

2 Kings 2:11-14 (NIV) As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

3. True friendships _____ and _____ us.

Psalm 3:5 (NIV) I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.

Psalm 54:4 (NIV) Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.

Philippians 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Exodus 17:8 (NIV) The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.

Exodus 17:10-13 (NIV) So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Ruth 1:15-18 (NIV) "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

2 Corinthians 7:6 (NIV) But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus.

2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV) He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Genesis 14:14-16 (NIV) When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the

night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

4. True friendships are increasingly _____ as we come closer to _____.

2 Timothy 3:1 (NIV) But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 (NIV) In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

5. True friends are _____.

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 17:9 (NIV) Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

1 Peter 4:8 (NIV) Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Proverbs 20:6 (NIV) Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?

Job 42:10 (NIV) After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

Proverbs 15:13 (NIV) A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.