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## A STUDY IN FRIENDSHIP.

In studying the friendship of David and Jonathan five passages should be read. 1. 1 Sam. 18: 1-4, describing the rise of the attachment and its deep character. 2. 1 Sam. 19: 1-7, Jonathan's friendship in action, warning David against Saul, and pleading with Saul (this time successfully) for David. 3. 1 Sam. 20, which divides naturally into three parts—the covenant (1-23), the last appeal (24-34), the farewell (35-42). 4. 1 Sam. 23: 16-18, the last meeting; when Jonathan risked his life to go and encourage his friend. 5. 2 Sam. 1: 17-27, David's lament over Jonathan. The beauty of this touching episode in Bible history will not be seen unless the whole story be sketched, from the beginning to the end. Let us see how Jonathan shewed his friendship for David..

I. JONATHAN WAS AN UNSELFISH FRIEND. This was manifested in three ways. (1) In the exploit that awakened his friendship (1 Sam. 18: 1). Jonathan was the idol of the people because of a similar act of bravery (1 Sam. 14: 45). Now he sees David supplanting him. If Saul was jealous we would expect that Jonathan would be more so, yet it was for this very deed he loved him. (2) In his willing surrender of his birthright to David (1 Sam. 20: 15; 23: 17), he was not only submissive to God's will, but "loved David as his own soul." (3) In braving his father's anger for David (1 Sam. 19: 1-7). Another might have been tempted to keep silence rather than incur danger, or even to take advantage of the king's hatred to advance himself. But Jonathan "spoke good of David," and succeeded in obtaining his restoration to royal favor.

II. JONATHAN WAS A FAITHFUL AND CONSTANT FRIEND. "The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David." We read of no quarrels between them, not even a passing coolness. He was no mere "fair weather friend." He was true to David when he became a fugitive and an outcast (1 Sam. 23: 16-18). David had been hiding and wandering a long time when Jonathan sought him out and came from the royal camp to the outlaw's den at the risk of his life to see his friend once more.

III. JONATHAN WAS A GODLY FRIEND. Here is the secret of the origin of his love. He was knit to David because he saw David's simple faith in God. He was one with whom he could take "sweet counsel" and "walk unto the house of God in company" (Ps. 55: 14). Here, too, is the secret of his submission to God's choice of David as king. He made that perilous visit to David in order to "strengthen his hand in God." With all his friendship for David he never was undutiful to his father. He stood by him to the last, and died fighting by his side.

BUT A BETTER FRIEND — THE BEST FRIEND — IS JESUS. In him we see *Unselfishness* (John 15: 13), *Constancy* (John 13: 1; Rom. 8: 35) and *Godly Brotherhood* (1 Pet. 3: 18) in perfection. And of whom is he the friend? (Matt. 19: 17). He exchanges garments with them (1 Sam. 18: 4; Isa. 64: 6; Phil. 3: 9). He intercedes with the king for them (Heb. 7: 25). Abridged from *Hurlbut's Notes*.

We regret that this number of THE TEACHER'S MONTHLY is a little behind time. The very great labor involved in issuing the new series of lesson helps for the first quarter of 1896 is the cause of this. All these publications, the LEAFLETS, the QUARTERLIES and the MONTHLY, are prepared by the convener amid the pressing duties and outside calls of a city pastorate. These must receive his first attention, and consequently, with every effort, the MONTHLY is occasionally a little late in appearing. It is hoped that, now the work is so well in hand, there will be no more ground of complaint. We may promise that hereafter all the periodicals will be mailed one month in advance of the date for which they are required. It must be evident, however, that the work of editing the lesson helps and superintending their publication is far beyond the time and strength of one in a pastoral charge, and that the next General Assembly must appoint some one who will give his whole time to the management of its S. S. department. If all our Sabbath schools will adopt our own lesson helps the money needed for his support would be provided.