

## PRICELESS WEALTH: TRUE FRIENDSHIP

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**A true friend gives value to his friendship and does not suspect his friend.**

**A true friend is priceless**

**C**hildren! Once upon a time two friends lived in a village. One of the friends visited the other friend's house. The friend's wife was churning butter. She welcomed him with warmth and offered good hospitality. She told that his friend has gone to city for some work. The friend left after some time. The friend's wife realized then that she has lost her gold chain, which was very costly.

In the evening when the husband returned she complained about loss of gold chain. The husband asked – 'When did you lose it?' She explained, 'When your friend had come I was churning butter'. After revealing the story, she also insisted that he should talk to his friend about it. The husband refused to do so and replied, 'My friend is very honest and wealthy, why will he need your chain?'

When the wife insisted him again and again the husband went to the friend's house. He asked his friend who in turn gave a suitable reply.

The friend in return asked – 'You happened to visit my house in my absence and at the same time my wife lost her chain. There was no other person in the house at that time. If by any chance you have taken the chain then please let me know. The friend kept quiet for a while and then said- 'Yes! I remember the chain is with me. I thought the chain is of light weight let me make a new and heavier chain for her, so I have given it to the gold smith you can get it after two days'.

The wife and the husband returned home happily.

After two days he went to the friend's house with a new gold chain. Both the husband and wife were delighted to see the chain.

After few months a farmer came to buy butter. When the lady put her hand in the container to take the butter she noticed the chain in the bottom of the container. She was astonished to see the chain. She gave the required butter to the farmer and quickly narrated the story

to the husband. She said- 'We have done a big mistake, when your friend came home I was churning butter and my chain fell in the container, which I found it today'. The husband was surprised to hear this. Both the husband and wife went to the friend's place with both the chains. They returned the new chain and asked 'When you had not taken the chain then why did you admit that you had it?'

The friend replied – 'Even if I had said 'no' you would have thought that I was lying and that I was a thief. Our friendship would have ended. I got a new chain made and was successful in removing the doubt from your mind. You took the same chain with happiness. I gave value to friendship than the chain. By hearing this friend and his wife broke down. Tears started rolling down their cheeks. And they asked the friend to excuse them and in turn the friend said – 'Even if I sacrifice myself for your friendship it would be less'.

**Lesson** – This story teaches us that a true friend gives value to his friendship and does not suspect his friend. A true friend is priceless.

