

# The Mark of a Friend

A soldier asked his officer if he might go out into “No Man’s Land” between the trenches in World War I to bring in one of his comrades who lay grievously wounded.

“You can go,” said the officer, “but it’s not worth it. Your friend is probably killed, and you will throw your own life away.”



But the soldier went. Somehow, he managed to get to his friend, hoist him onto his shoulder, and bring him back to the trenches. The two of them tumbled in together, and lay in the trench bottom.

The officer looked very tenderly on the would-be rescuer, and then he said, “I told you it wouldn’t be worth it. Your friend is dead, and you are mortally wounded.”

“It was worth it, though, sir,” the soldier said.

“How do you mean ‘worth it’? I tell you your friend is dead,” the officer replied.

“Yes, sir,” the boy answered, “but it was worth it, because when I got to him, he was still alive, and he said to me, ‘Jim, I knew you’d come.’”

Do you have a friend like that? Or maybe a better question is, Are you a friend like that?

In a selfish, me-first, pleasure-seeking culture that seems to be pervasive, such love is rare, indeed.

– Beecher Hunter