

June 24, 2020

Today's message has been prepared by Melodie and Steve Northey.

Ecclesiastes 4:10 "If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."

From One Friend To Another

What would we do without friends? Friends are with us to share joys, laughs, tears, and fears. Friends may or may not share the same traditions, lifestyle, skin colour, sexuality, holidays, religions, spirituality, or opinions.

Friends remain true to each other through thick and thin. Even when you haven't seen each other for a long time, when you reunite, it is like you have never been apart.

Jesus and his disciples were friends who shared the good and the bad. Can you just picture them sharing a meal, drinking wine, laughing, talking, discussing the world problems and religions, as they planned ways they could go forward together spreading 'the good news'? They must have felt each other's joy, pain, and the huge void when Jesus no longer walked on earth with them, although they knew when their friend was not physically present, he was still in their hearts and souls.



Today, we are isolated, separated from our friends physically, at least by 2-meters, to protect each other from Covid-19. But through modern technology we have the benefit of staying connected, embracing each other through phone calls, and visually through zoom meetings or face-timing. Not quite the same as giving hugs or a handshake when we greet in person.

As friends, we can continue sharing and living the many positive lessons from the Bible and reflecting on how they impact our daily lives.

The late Andy Rooney, a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words, used to be on CBS's 60 Minutes TV show. Listed here are some of his musings related to life and friendships:

"I've learned....

That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.
That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
That being kind is more important than being right.
That money doesn't buy class.
That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
That love, not time, heals all wounds.
That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile."

My Melodie's favorite:

"That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes."
So, don't waste life. Remember, friends are the pillars on your porch. Sometimes they hold you up, sometimes lean on you, and sometimes it's just enough to know they are standing by.

Peace be with you and keep in touch with your friends.

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