

## FOUNDATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP LESSON 2

**Intro. We're continuing our series on friendship.**

1. Friendship is a really big deal!

### **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NKJV)**

9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.

10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

- *This verse tells us two important reasons for friendship*
  - a. Our lives have greater impact when they are shared with others, "*they have a good reward for their labor*"
  - b. When we mess up, a friend is there to help, "*...woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.*"

**James 1:27 (NKJV)** Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

### **Matthew 25:34-40 (NKJV)**

34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

- *Even though we're not perfect yet, we are learning to be friends*

## I. \_\_\_\_\_ FRIENDS

### A. THE LAW OF \_\_\_\_\_ IN FRIENDSHIP

#### **Galatians 6:7-10 (NKJV)**

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- *This is one of the most powerful "laws" in the Bible*
  1. It can be either \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Sow to our flesh we reap garbage; sow to the Spirit and we reap a whole lot of good!
  2. The law of sowing and reaping applies to \_\_\_\_\_

*"...for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."*

- a. If we want to reap some friends we have to be willing to sow some friendship

**Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)** A man who has friends ***must himself be friendly***, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

- *This is probably the most important verse that has to do with making friends*
- *If we're going to have close, quality friendships- we need to sow seeds of friendship*

## B. \_\_\_\_\_ OF FRIENDSHIP

1. A friend should be \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 15:7 (NKJV)** Therefore ***receive one another***, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

- One of the most surprising qualities of Jesus is that He accepted us; sin, faults, and everything

### **John 15:15-16 (NKJV)**

15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

- Jesus didn't chose the disciples on the basis of what they could do for Him
- He accepted them and chose them to be with Him with the idea of helping them grow

**Gary Inrig**, *"Biblical friendship is not based on our need of others but on their need of us. We cannot love like that without risk and without cost."*

**again read; Romans 15:7** Therefore ***receive one another***, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

2. A friend should be \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)** A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but ***there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.***

- This means we can be counted on

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

- b. A friend is someone who can be trusted with a confidence

**Proverbs 17:9 (NKJV)** He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.

**Proverbs 10:12 (NKJV)** Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.

- c. We all need someone we can really talk to; share in confidence with
- d. One of the qualities we need to express in our lives is the ability to keep a confidence someone else shares with us

**1 Samuel 20:1-4 (NKJV)**

1 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?"

2 So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!"

3 Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."

4 So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you."

- *David is coming to Jonathan with his "problem". He is literally putting his life in his friend's hands*
- *A friend should be trustworthy- faithful*

- 3. A friend should be \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Someone who will be honest with us
  - b. Who will tell us when we're "getting weird"

- c. There are always those who feel gifted to "*speak into others lives*"
- d. We don't have a platform to speak into someone's problem unless it comes from genuine and sincere love

**Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV)** but, *speaking the truth in love*, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

4. A friend should be an \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 4:36 (NKJV)** And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus...

- a. Barnabas was such an encourager the apostles nicknamed him "*Son of Encouragement*"
- b. When we're going through a difficult time the last thing we need is a critic

**Job 16:1-5 (NKJV)**

1 Then Job answered and said:  
 2 "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all!  
 3 Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?  
 4 I also could speak as you do, if your soul were in my soul's place. I could heap up words against you, and shake my head at you;  
 5 But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief.

**ex.** *This is Job responding to his "friends". You have to read the book of Job to get the full story. These guys had been brutal!*

- c. One of the most important "duties" of a friend is to speak encouragement

**Proverbs 25:11 (NKJV)** A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

**Isaiah 50:4 (NKJV)** "The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, he awakens My ear to hear as the learned.

- *Making friends means a willingness to sow the seeds of friendship*

### **PRAYER AND CONFESSION**

*Jesus, I want to be a true friend. Help me to be accepting of others. Help me to be faithful and honest with them. I don't want to be a critic. Teach me and help me to speak words of encouragement, to build others up instead of tearing them down. I trust You for that grace in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## **FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #2**

### **I. \_\_\_\_\_(MAKING) FRIENDS**

#### **A. THE LAW OF \_\_\_\_\_(SOWING AND REAPING) IN FRIENDSHIP**

1. It can be either \_\_\_\_\_(**positive or negative**)
2. The law of sowing and reaping applies to \_\_\_\_\_(**everything in life**)

#### **B. \_\_\_\_\_(SEEDS) OF FRIENDSHIP**

1. A friend should be \_\_\_\_\_(**accepting**)
2. A friend should be \_\_\_\_\_(**trustworthy or faithful**)
3. A friend should be \_\_\_\_\_(**honest**)
4. A friend should be an \_\_\_\_\_(**encourager**)