

Today's Message Outline

Wisdom & Friendship

Wisdom Calls Out: Studies in Proverbs

Selected Proverbs

Sunday, July 26, 2009

I. The GIFT of Friendship

1. A _____ gift (17:17, 27:10)

2. A _____ gift (12:26, 16:29)

3. A _____ gift (18:24)

II. The QUALITIES of Friendship

A. _____ (17:17) (27:10)

B. _____ (25:17, 27:14, 17:9, 22:11)

C. _____ (27:6, 29:5)

D. _____ (27:9, 17)

III. The RISK of Friendship

A. _____ (19:7)

B. _____ (25:18)

C. _____ (11:9)

Today's Scripture Reading

On Wisdom & Friendship . . .

- (17:17) A **friend** loves at all times,
And a brother is born for adversity.
- (12:26) The righteous is a guide to his **neighbor**,
But the way of the wicked leads them astray.
- (26:29) A man of violence entices his **neighbor**
And leads him in a way that is not good.
- (18:24) A man of too many friends comes to ruin,
But there is a **friend** who sticks closer than a brother.
- (27:10) Do not forsake your own **friend** or your father's **friend**,
And do not go to your brother's house
in the day of your calamity;
Better is a **neighbor** who is near than a brother far away.
- (25:17) Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor's house,
Or he will become weary of you and hate you.
- (27:14) He who blesses his **friend** with a loud voice early in the
morning, It will be reckoned a curse to him.
- (17:9) He who conceals a transgression seeks love,
But he who repeats a matter separates intimate **friends**.
- (22:11) He who loves purity of heart and whose speech is gracious,
the king is his **friend**.
- (27:6) Faithful are the wounds of a **friend**,
But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.
- (29:5) A man who flatters his **neighbor**
Is spreading a net for his steps.
- (27:9) Oil and perfume make the heart glad,
So a man's counsel is sweet to his **friend**.
- (27:17) Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.
- (19:7) All the brothers of a poor man hate him;
How much more do his **friends** abandon him!
He pursues them with words, but they are gone.
- (25:18) Like a club and a sword and a sharp arrow
Is a man who bears false witness against his **neighbor**.
- (3:6) With his mouth the godless man destroys his **neighbor**,
But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read through the Proverbs “friend passages” again. What does the very presence of these passages communicate to us?
2. Looking at the first set of verses on the outline, why is friendship such a valuable and powerful, but rare gift?
3. Looking closely at the friendship verses, what are some ways that God uses friends in our lives?
4. Does a friend only speak caring, comforting words to us? What verses support your position?
5. Why is friendship risky business and what verses remind us of that fact?
6. Read John 15:13-15. What is the verse saying and what does it have to do with us and our fragile friendships?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in this week’s text/message?
2. C.S. Lewis argues and Proverbs confirms that the ancients had a much higher view and value of friendship than we do today. Why do you think that is?
3. What are some cultural realities that work against the forging of true and long-term friendships?
4. What have been your own joys and hurts of friendship?
5. Who are your true friends? Which of the 4 qualities of friendship do you think is hindering your friendships? What can you do now to open yourself up and develop deeper friendships going forward?