

Friendship

Don't forget about our radio program. The broadcast is every Sunday morning from 8:00-8:45 on the HUM. The station can be found at 98.5 in Columbus and 98.3 in Seymour.

The high school class agreed to read through the New Testament in 6 months. Please join them and hold them accountable to daily Bible reading.

Daily Bible Readings

Luke 6 **July 6**

Luke 7 **July 7**

John 8 **July 8**

John 9 **July 9**

John 10 **July 10**

John 11 **July 11**

John 12 **July 12**

If you are behind in the daily reading, please read 3 chapters a day until you catch up!

Fair Booth

We still have slots available for people to work the fair booth. Please see Dwayne!

James Sanders

Friendship is one of the more noble treasures of life. There is nothing quite like a good friend. When adversity strikes, the good friend is constant. He is the same whether we are in wealth or in need: "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Prov. 17:17). Friendship improves happiness and abates misery. It doubles our joy and divides our grief (Addison). Two are better than one.

Comfort and Candor

Friends are for comfort but friends are also for candor: "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Prov. 27:6). There is a sincere frankness between friends—a frankness tempered with tenderness. Friendship is something that is built through a labor of love. It is the work of a lifetime. We are bound to other men by every 'sort of tie: by blood, by fear, by admiration, and by circumstances. But friendship finds its bonds in the tenderness of the heart. Friends are truthful. The friend who will not openly rebuke us is not worth the name. And the man who gives counsel without respecting our feelings, likewise is not our friend.

Close friendships are rare and therefore the more precious. Jonathan's friendship for David was an once-in-a-lifetime blessing for both. Jonathan loved David as he loved his own soul (1 Sam. 20:16). And when Jona-

than died, David lamented, "I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women" (2 Sam. 1:26). The death of Jonathan was an irreparable loss. David never again had another friend like Jonathan. "The loss of a friend is like that of a limb; time may heal the anguish of the wound, but the loss cannot be repaired" (Southey). Close friends are rare and are few. A host of acquaintances is not what helps us. A few close friends are better and stand in a class by themselves: "A man of many friends comes to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24, NASB).

Warmth and Joy

The warmth of friendship is the best blessing of all. There is that healthy clash between friends which invigorates the soul: "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend" (Prov. 27:17). Friendship is too good to be believed. Remember how your heart leaped the last time you saw the face of an old friend you had not seen in years? Remember your laughter and your tears—and how time itself seemed to stand still? There was neither Winter nor night as both of you relived the memories of the past. This is friendship and friendship at its best. Heaven will be like this. When we cross

the River of Death, our friends will be on the other shore to welcome us. "At last!" they will shout. But no one will weep for there are no tears in that country (Rev. 21:4). Friendship sharpens the countenance. Friendship touches the heart and makes nobler men of us all. Friendship is one of God's good gifts.

Because friendship is precious, it needs to be cherished. We take care of our health; we lay up our money and make our roof tight. But we neglect the best property of all—our friends. Friendship must be cherished. It is worthy of respect. It is worthy of courtesy. It is worthy of tact. There are certain bounds beyond which not even a good friend should venture. It is easy to outstay our welcome in more ways than one: "Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee" (Prov. 25:17). Friendship needs to be cherished and never betrayed. The disgrace of Judas lies in that he betrayed a good friend. His deed has ever since lived in infamy. Not even the soldiers who crucified Christ are remembered like Judas. Friendship is a sacred trust.

<http://www.truthmagazine.com/archives/volume18/TM018356.html>

Authentic Relationships

Being a Real Friend

Points to Consider:

1. You must share real feelings
2. You must respect real wishes
3. You must make real sacrifices
4. You must offer real encouragement

You Must Share Real Feelings

John 15:15-16 *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.*

The relationship between Jesus and his apostles grew to the point where Jesus called them **friends** instead of **servants**.
Jesus told the apostles **everything** God wanted Him to.

Matt 16:21-23 *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

Even though the apostles were not ready, Jesus still told them he was going to die and be raised on the third day.
Jesus did not hesitate to express his **anger** to Peter by saying, "Get behind Me, Satan!"

Matt 17:14-18 *And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." 18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.*

Jesus would often rebuke his disciples for their **lack** of faith.

John 15:9 *As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.... 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

Jesus often told His apostles that He **loved** them.

Matt 26:37-38 *He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."*

Real friends share pain, they don't cover it up.

You Must Respect Real Wishes

John 15:14-15 *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*

Jesus' friendship with His followers was unique because He is God's Son. In our friendships we must mutually respect one another's wishes.

2 Sam 15:32-37 *Now it happened when David had come to the top of the mountain, where he worshiped God — there was Hushai the Archite coming to meet him with his robe torn and dust on his head. 33 David said to him, "If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me. 34 But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I was your father's servant previously, so I will now also be your servant,' then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me. 35 And do you not have Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? Therefore it will be that whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 36 Indeed they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son; and by them you shall send me everything you hear." 37 So Hushai, David's friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem.*

Hushai wanted to go with King David, but David wanted him to become a spy against Absalom.

Hushai was not only one of his servants, he was a friend.

2 Sam 16:15-17 *Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel was with him. 16 And so it was, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" So Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?"*

Absalom recognized that Hushai was David's friend. Absalom rebukes him for his lack of loyalty.

Hushai encourages Absalom not to follow Ahithophel's good advice.

Hushai's advice led to Ahithophel's suicide and Absalom's death.

You must make real sacrifices

John 15:13-14 *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

Jesus showed the greatest level of sacrifice by giving his life for us.

1 John 3:16-17 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?*

We should follow Jesus' example and lay down our lives for our brethren.

Laying down our lives includes sharing our earthly possessions.

Gen 13:8-9 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

Abraham **sacrificed** the best of the land for his nephew Lot.

Judg 11:37-39 Then she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I." So he said, "Go." And he sent her away for two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains.

The friends of Jephthah's daughter sacrifice their **time**.

You Must Offer Real Encouragement

John 15:16-17 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. 17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

Jesus encouraged the apostles by telling them they were going to bear long-lasting fruit. Jesus told them they were going to make a real impact on **history**.

Eccl 4:9-12 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 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. 11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

When we fall we need friends who will **encourage** us to get up. Sometimes we need friends to **help** us up.

Acts 15:36-41 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing." 37 Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. 38 But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. 39 Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; 40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. 41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

The Apostles gave Barnabas his name. Barnabas means the Son of **Encouragement**. Sometimes we encourage people by working **with** them.

Application

1. Set aside time to build friendships this week.
2. Identify at least two talents a friend has and encourage them to use their talent.

Ideas taken from *Authentic Relationships: being real in an artificial world*.