



Friendship Crisis

Brian Priebe | Executive Pastor | May 21, 2023

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV)

*"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.'" **Genesis 1:26a (NIV)***

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

Genesis 2:18a (NIV)

*"After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself." **1 Samuel 18:1 (NIV)***

*"And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself." **1 Samuel 18:3 (NIV)***

*"I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women." **2 Samuel 1:26 (NIV)***

*"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.'" **Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV)***

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 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. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

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

*"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." **Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)***

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TODAY'S MESSAGE:

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*"Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'" **John 11:35-36 (NIV)***

*"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." **John 15:13 (NIV)***

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." **John 13:34-35 (NIV)***

"When Jesus saw THEIR FAITH, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"
Mark 2:5 (NIV)

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Do you have 2am type deep friendships currently in your life?
- 2) Read the wisdom literature on friends (Ecc 4:9-12, Prov 17:17, Prov 18:24). What stands out to you about our need and capacity for these types of friends?
- 3) Read Mark 2:1-12. What role and characteristics do you see in the paralyzed man's friends?

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