

VIEW FROM THE PULPIT



The Views Expressed In This Article Are The Opinions Of The Writer.

True Friends Are Hard To Come By

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatever I command you. Henceforth I call not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my father I have made known unto you." (St. John 15:14-15).

For the very first time in scripture Jesus calls his disciples friends. They have this wonderful opportunity to be friends with Jesus on one condition, they must do as He commands them. From now on He says I will not call you servants; for the servant does not know what his master does, there is information kept from servants, the communication about things are limited but with friends it's different. I will tell you things that I will not discuss with another. Friends are hard to come by and just one friend can make all the difference in the world. We call some people Fair Weather Friends. People who come to us at a time favorable to them, as long as things are good they are around; but when the chips are down they don't have time for you. Then there are Old Friends. These are people who go back a long way in your life. Old friends are reliable and consistent, you can pick up with them where you left off. We even have Unfaithful Friends. These are friends who will hurt or disappoint you. Since friendship means loyalty and acceptance, the unfaithful friend is not trustworthy. It is almost impossible for an unfaithful friend to even become a close friend again, feelings go deep and friendship is very fragile and must always be handled with care. There is a saying, "Pick your friends, but not to pieces." Friendship is not to be used and abused. The last kind of friend that I want to mention is a True Friend. A true friend can be more loyal than members of your family. A special bond cements the hearts of true friends. There is freedom of expression and communication in the relationship, caring and deep understanding, trust and loyalty. Of all friends, a true friend is hard to find. Josh Billings said, "I'd rather have a million friends than a million dollars, for if I ever did get hard up they ought to be good at least for a dollar a piece." Indeed, true friends are priceless. They do not forsake you in your hour of need.

True friendship has to be developed. Jesus spent three years with his disciples before calling them friends and when He asked for their friendship He was ready to prove His friendship. St. John 15:13 says this, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus said these words, He was not a fair weather friend, He was not an unfaithful friend, He was a true friend then and now.

When Judas betrayed Jesus in Matthew 26:50 Jesus said unto him, "Friend, wherefore art thou come?" Jesus didn't call him a double crosser, He called him friend. When Jesus called Judas a friend I believe He was saying to Judas the door to forgiveness is open to you, it's still open in spite of what you have done to Me; I want to be a friend to you but you must be willing to be a friend to Me. "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." Jesus is saying among true friends there is loyalty, trust and faithfulness. Judas was an unfaithful friend. What kind of friend are you, a fair weather friend, an unfaithful friend, or a true friend?

If you have a true friend count it a blessing because a true friend is a rare jewel. If you have a true friend then you know the joyous feeling having someone you can depend on, someone to trust, no



Rev. Burrell Brooks

strings attached and no hidden motives. I believe it takes a very special person to be a true friend and very few ever make the grade.

I would like to close with the

poem "Be A Friend" by Edgar A. Guest:

"Be a friend. You don't need money; Just a disposition sunny; Just the wish to help another get along some way or other; Just a kindly hand extended out to one who's unbefriended; Just the will to give or lend, This will make you someone's friend.

"Be a friend. You don't need glory. Friendship is a simple story. Pass by trifling errors blindly, Gaze on honest effort kindly, Cheer the youth who's bravely trying, Pity him who's sadly sighing; Just a little labor spend on the duties of a friend.

"Be a friend. The pay is bigger (though not written by a figure), than is earned by people clever in what's merely self-endavor.

"You'll have friends instead of neighbors for the profits of your labors; You'll be richer in the end than a prince, if you're a friend."

Duke Endowment Gives \$625,000 To Davidson

Davidson, NC - The Duke Endowment has given \$625,000 to Davidson College for a professorship in international studies, computers and technological equipment, and services for students, college President J.W. Kuykendall announced recently.

The Endowment gave \$100,000 to Davidson as the fourth installment of the \$1 million endowment for the J. B. Duke Professorship in International Studies, \$325,000 for acquisition and support staff, and \$200,00 for academic and psychological support services for students.

The \$625,000 in grants came in addition to the Duke Endowment's annual appropriation to Davidson, which was over \$1 million in 1986. The total Duke appropriation to

Davidson in 1986 was over \$1.5 million. Since the perpetual trust was created in the 1920s, the Endowment has given a total of \$30,441 to Davidson, according to Elizabeth H. Loekke, Ph. D., director of the Endowment's Education Division.

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