

HAVING THE RIGHT FRIENDS

LOF 08/05/19

- IN TIME AND AGE WHERE WE HAVE MORE FRIENDS AND FOLLOWERS THAN EVER BEFORE.....
- HOW CAN WE STILL FEEL ALONE?
- WE NEED **RELATIONSHIPS** THAT ARE **DEEPER** THAN JUST 'ON THE SURFACE'.
- A 'SURFACE' RELATIONSHIP LEADS US TO LIVING A SHALLOW AND SUPERFICIAL LIVES
- WE DON'T NEED PEOPLE WHO JUST "LIKED" US, BUT PEOPLE WHO PUSHES US TOWRDS OUR PURPOSE.
- WE NEED THE RIGHT FRIENDS / THE INNER CIRCLE.
- THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU THAT REALLY KNOW YOU – NOT YOUR FACEBOOK / IG FRIEND, PEOPLE WHO SEES THE MAD YOU, THE 'NOT PERFECT' YOU, PEOPLE THAT KNOW WHAT YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH.

EVERYBODY HAS BLIND SPOTS

- WE NEED PEOPLE TO **SPEAK THINGS INTO OUR LIFE** EVEN WHEN WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
- PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT JUST CHEERING FOR YOU, BUT ALSO FIGHTING FOR YOU + FIGHTING WITH YOU.
- WHO DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU CAN CALL WHEN ITS INCONVENIENT FOR THEM?
- AND YOU KNOW THAT THEY STILL WANT YOU TO CALL THEM.
- **WHO DO YOU GIVE ACCESS TO SPEAK INTO YOUR LIVES?**
- IT IS SO IMPORTANT WHO YOU ALLOW TO SPEAK INTO YOUR LIFE
 - **IT WILL DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE**
 - **IT WILL DETERMINE WHAT YOUR FUTURE LOOKS LIKE.**
- ITS GREAT TO HANG OUT WITH PEOPLE WHO HAS THE **SAME INTEREST** WHO YOU CAN TALK ABOUT MAKEUP, FASHION, GAMES, BIKES, GYM TOGETHER...
- WHEN IT COMES TO **MORAL COMPASS.....MAKING THE RIGHT DECISIONS....WHETHER WE'RE GONNA STAY IN THIS RELATIONSHIP OR NOT....**
- A LOT OF TIMES PEOPLE WILL GIVE YOU ADVICE BASED ON THEIR FEELINGS NOT BASED ON THEIR **FAITH.**
- JUST BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS GO WITH YOU EMOTIONALLY, THAT MEANS SOMETIMES THEY'RE DOWN IN DELAYING YOUR PURPOSE TOO.
- THEY WILL LET YOU STAY IN RELATIONSHIPS THAT THEY KNOW ITS NOT RIGHT FOR YOU, BUT NEVER EVEN SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT IT – THAT THEY DON'T REALLY CARE FOR YOU.

PROVERBS 27 (NLT)

⁵AN OPEN REBUKE

IS BETTER THAN HIDDEN LOVE!

⁶WOUNDS FROM A SINCERE FRIEND

ARE BETTER THAN MANY KISSES FROM AN ENEMY.

FOR SOME REASONS WE LOVE KISSES FROM PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW US THAN **TRUTH SPOKEN IN LOVE** (NOT MEAN) SO THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE.

THIS IS HOW JESUS HAD DESIGNED TRUE AND RIGHT FRIENDSHIP TO WORK IN OUR LIVES.

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

MATTHEW 4:18-20 (NKJV)

AND JESUS, WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE, SAW TWO BROTHERS, SIMON CALLED PETER, AND HIS BROTHER ANDREW, CASTING A NET INTO THE SEA; FOR THEY WERE FISHERMEN. 19 THEN HE SAID TO THEM, "FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN." 20 THEY IMMEDIATELY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM.

- JESUS INVITED PETER AND ANDREW TO FOLLOW HIM. AND WHAT THEY SAW IN JESUS WAS SO VALUABLE, THEY LEFT WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND FOLLOWED.
- JESUS HAS INVITED US TO LEAVE BEHIND OUR HURTS, HABITS, AND HANG-UPS SO WE CAN BECOME FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF HIM.
- JESUS DOES NOT CALL US TO FOLLOW HIM **ALONE**.
- WE ALSO NEED **CHRIST- CENTRED FRIENDSHIPS** IN OUR LIVES.
- PETER DID NOT FOLLOW JESUS ALONE, AND ANDREW DID NOT FOLLOW JESUS ALONE. **THEY FOLLOWED HIM TOGETHER.**

WE NEED PEOPLE WHO HELP US FOLLOW JESUS

JOHN 1:35-37

AGAIN, THE NEXT DAY, JOHN STOOD WITH TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES. 36 AND LOOKING AT JESUS AS HE WALKED, HE SAID, "BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD" 37 THE TWO DISCIPLES HEARD HIM SPEAK, AND THEY FOLLOWED JESUS.

- TWO MEN WERE FOLLOWING JOHN THE BAPTIST AND **WHEN JOHN POINTED JESUS OUT, THEY CHOSE TO FOLLOW HIM.**
- WE NEED PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES LIKE JOHN, WHO WILL **ENCOURAGE US TO BE FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST.**
- GOD PLACES PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES

- TO **DISCIPLE** US,
 - **ENCOURAGE** US WHEN WE'RE DOWN,
 - **CORRECT** US WHEN WE'RE WRONG,
 - AND **CHALLENGE** US.
- GOD GIVES GIFTS LIKE CONNECT GROUPS TO HELP YOU BUILD **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS** WITH OTHERS.
 - STAY CONNECTED TO THESE PEOPLE! -- GOD GAVE US PASTORS AND CONNECT LEADERS FOR A REASON.
 - LET THEM SPEAK INTO YOUR LIFE.

WE NEED TO LEAD OTHERS TO JESUS

MARK 5:18-20 (NKJV)

AND WHEN HE GOT INTO THE BOAT, HE WHO HAD BEEN DEMON-POSSESSED BEGGED HIM THAT HE MIGHT BE WITH HIM. 19 HOWEVER, JESUS DID NOT PERMIT HIM, BUT SAID TO HIM, "GO HOME TO YOUR FRIENDS, AND **TELL THEM WHAT GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU, AND HOW HE HAS HAD GREAT COMPASSION ON YOU.**" 20 AND HE DEPARTED AND BEGAN TO PROCLAIM IN DECAPOLIS ALL THAT JESUS HAD DONE FOR HIM' AND ALL MARVELLED.

- ALL OF US KNOW PEOPLE WHO ARE LOST, HURTING, AND BROKEN.
- **GOD WANTS TO USE OUR STORY TO SHOW THEM HE CAN CHANGE THEIR STORY.**
- WE WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU TO **SHARE** THE STORY OF **HOW JESUS CHANGED YOUR LIFE** WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
- THE "CHAPTERS" OF YOUR STORY THEY NEED TO KNOW ARE:
 - WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE **BEFORE** YOU MET JESUS?
 - **HOW** DID YOU REALIZE YOU NEEDED JESUS?
 - **WHY** DID YOU DECIDE TO GIVE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS?
 - WHAT **DIFFERENCE** HAS JESUS MADE IN YOUR LIFE THUS FAR?

WE NEED TO GUARD OURSELVES FROM THOSE WHO LEAD US AWAY FROM JESUS

PROVERBS 13:20 (MSG)

BECOME WISE BY WALKING WITH THE WISE; HANG OUT WITH FOOLS AND WATCH YOUR LIFE FALL TO PIECES.

- OUR FRIENDS AFFECT THE **QUALITY** AND **DIRECTION** OF OUR LIFE.
- THE WISE ARE THOSE WHO ARE FOLLOWING JESUS.

- THEY MAKE RIGHT CHOICES. THEY ENCOURAGE THOSE AROUND THEM TO DO THE SAME.
- THE FOOLS ARE THOSE WHO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG BUT DON'T CARE. THEY LIVE FOR IMMEDIATE PLEASURE REGARDLESS OF WHAT IT WILL COST THEM TOMORROW.
- IT IS DANGEROUS FOR US TO DEFEND OUR UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.
- IF WE LOOK AT THEIR LIVES, AND TELL OURSELVES, "I'LL NEVER DO WHAT THEY DO, SO IT'S OKAY TO BE AROUND THEM," WE ARE WRONG.
- IF WE DO NOT SET THE RIGHT BOUNDARIES..... WE END UP BEING INFLUENCED, OR BEING STUMBLING BLOCK.

HOW DO WE KNOW IF SOMEONE IS LEADING US AWAY FROM JESUS?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33 (NKJV)

DO NOT BE DECEIVED: "EVIL COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD HABITS."

LOOK AT YOUR LIST OF FRIENDS AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- SINCE YOU ARE FOLLOWING JESUS, ARE YOUR FRIENDS HEADED IN THE SAME OR THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION?
- DO YOU HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE LESS COMMITTED TO CHRIST WHEN YOU ARE AROUND THEM?
- ARE YOU TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE AROUND THEM? ARE YOU TEMPTED TO DO THINGS YOU WOULD NEVER CONSIDER DOING WHEN YOU ARE NOT WITH THEM?
- DO YOU HAVE TO TELL YOURSELF: "IT'S OKAY TO GO WITH THEM BUT I SHOULDN'T DO WHAT THEY DO?"

**MAKE SURE EVERYBODY IN YOUR BOAT IS ROWING, AND NOT DRILLING HOLES WHEN YOU'RE NOT LOOKING.
KNOW YOUR CIRCLE.**

GODLY COMMUNITY.

ADAM

GIFT OF MANAGEMENT.

SUBDUE, DOMINATE THE EARTH, MULTIPLY.

ITS NOT GOOD TO BE ALONE – GOD CREATED COMMUNITY FOR HIM: EVE

DAVID

HIM BEING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART.

SHEPHERD, WARRIOR, MUSICIAN, EXPERT IN SLINGSHOT
THE KING OF ISRAEL.

YOU GOTTA GO THROUGH THAT TO BUILD THE STAMINA TO WITHHOLD THE POSITION
THAT IM CALLED YOU TO, COZ ITS HIGHER ITS BIGGER

JONATHAN IS HIS GODLY COMMUNITY

THEY LOOKED OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

JONATHAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE HEIR, AND JONATHAN WAS SO IN TUNE THAT HE RECOGNISED THAT HE'S NOT THE ONE CALLED FOR IT.

JONATHAN SAVED HIS LIFE SEVERAL TIMES.

HE PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE SO HE CAN FULFILL HIS CALLING.

JESUS

HE CHOSE GODLY COMMUNITY

WALKING PAST PEOPLE....FISHERMEN, COME FOLLOW ME, WALK WITH ME, DO LIFE WITH ME.

EAT, PRAY TOGETHER,

EVEN OUT OF THE 12 DISCIPLES....THERE WERE 3 PETER JAMES JOHN

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12 (NLT)

⁹ TWO PEOPLE ARE BETTER OFF THAN ONE, FOR THEY CAN HELP EACH OTHER SUCCEED. ¹⁰ IF ONE PERSON FALLS, THE OTHER CAN REACH OUT AND HELP. BUT SOMEONE WHO FALLS ALONE IS IN REAL TROUBLE. ¹¹ LIKEWISE, TWO PEOPLE LYING CLOSE TOGETHER CAN KEEP EACH OTHER WARM. BUT HOW CAN ONE BE WARM ALONE? ¹² A PERSON STANDING ALONE CAN BE ATTACKED AND DEFEATED, BUT TWO CAN STAND BACK-TO-BACK AND CONQUER. THREE ARE EVEN BETTER, FOR A TRIPLE-BRAIDED CORD IS NOT EASILY BROKEN.

WE DO NOT NEED TO FIGHT ALONE IN LIFE.

WE NEED PEOPLE WHO **FIGHT BACK TO BACK** WITH YOU.

PEOPLE WHOSE DIRECTION IS SET TOWARDS JESUS!

- WE NEED OTHER COUPLES THAT CAN SPEAK INTO YOUR MARRIAGE.

A LOT OF TIME WE WANT TO STAY FACE TO FACE, BUT SOMETIMES ITS MORE THAN JUST TALKING.

WE NEED SOMEONE WHO HAS GOT OUR BACK, WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING HARD TIMES.... **"HAVE YOU GOT MY BACK?"**

SEEING WHAT EACH OTHER DOESN'T SEE – PEOPLE WHO CAN COVER YOUR BLIND SPOTS.

- **AM I DEALING WITH PRIDE, ANGER?**
- **HAS MY ATTITUDE CHANGED? HAVE I BECOME MONEY HUNGRY?**
- **PLEASE TELL ME IF THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO WORK WITH.**
- **I GIVE YOU ACCESS TO SPEAK INTO MY LIFE.**

ACTS 2:42-47 THE BELIEVERS FROM A COMMUNITY (NLT)

THE RESULT: EACH DAY THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR FELLOWSHIP THOSE WERE BEING SAVED EVERY SINGLE DAY.

WE WOULD HAVE TO DO LESS EVANGELISM IF WE WOULD DO MORE COMMUNITY.

WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS IF THEY WOULD SEE HOW YOUR LIFE IS, AND THE PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF TOGETHER WITH YOU.

5 ELEMENTS TO WHAT GREW THE CHURCH / PEOPLE
WORSHIP TOGETHER, CHILL, PRAY, TRANSFORM, MULTIPLY.

SMALL GROUPS AND COMMUNITY IS WAY BETTER, ITS WHERE PEOPLE GET TOUCHED.
HEALING HAPPENS IN COMMUNITY: CONFESS YOUR SINS TO ONE ANOTHER, PRAY TOGETHER....

KEEP POINTING EACH OTHER TO JESUS.

THAT MEANS YOU MIGHT HAVE TO DIVORCE SOME OF THE FRIENDS THAT YOU'VE GOT BECAUSE WE CAN'T STAND IN THE RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE OF TIME SERVED.

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE.....

THIS IS NO LONGER..... NOT TAKING ME TOWARDS PURPOSE. KEEP EACH OTHER BELIEVING.

WHO HAS ACCESS TO YOUR LIFE?

- COME HERE, YOUR ATTITUDE IS BAD
- YOU'RE TOO BUSY, YOU'RE STRESSED OUT.
- WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!

TRUE LIFE CHANGE HAPPENS IN SMALL GROUPS.

YOU'RE BUSY....BUSY IN THINGS THAT NOT TAKING YOU TO YOUR PURPOSE?

JESUS TOLD US TO GO INTO THE WORLD....

WE GOTTA NEED TO BE AROUND PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT LIKE US, BUT DOESN'T MEAN WE NEED TO ENGAGE IN THEIR ACTIVITIES.

WE DON'T NEED TO SIN IN ORDER TO BE AROUND SINNERS

BUT WE DO NEED TO BE AROUND THEM IN ORDER TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

**YOUR CIRCLE SHOULD WANT TO SEE YOU WIN.
YOUR CIRCLE SHOULD BE PUSHING YOU EVERY DAY.
YOUR CIRCLE SHOULD ENCOURAGE YOUR GROWTH.
IF NOT, GET A NEW CIRCLE.**

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