



DEVOTION: April 30

Be a Friend DAVID WAGANER

During a lifetime, each of us has a lot of acquaintances but only a handful of friends.

Friends are those special few that:

- understand us when we are silent
- walk with us through both sorrows and joys
- come along side of us when others are no where to be found

One of the greatest biblical examples of a friendship involved the relationship between David and Jonathan. The story is found in the book of First Samuel.

- I Samuel 18:1-4 - David and Jonathan were in a covenant relationship as friends and loved each other as brothers.
- I Samuel 20:4 - Jonathan was willing to do anything necessary for David. It appears in their story that such behavior was reciprocal. Their friendship grew because of their investment in each other.

Someone recently suggested a book titled, *African Friends and Money Matters* by David Maranz. The book helps people serving in Africa to understand a basic mindset of Africans regarding friends and stewardship (money). Most of Africa is comprised of collective societies wherein people rely on each other for security rather than on themselves or their governments.

Obviously, most of us do not live in the same type of a society but could we possibly learn a more effective way of life through a healthier practice of friendship and stewardship? Here are some challenges we might learn from.

1. Be more concerned with putting your resources into circulation and less concerned with hoarding them.
2. Be very sensitive and alert to the needs of others and ready to share your resources.
3. Be less concerned about budgeting for special events and more concerned about helping others that have needs.
4. Be aware that a network of friends is a network of resources.

We each need to work at developing friendships. Christ called His disciples friends as men that lived according to the Commandments. It is as we love each other that we can best be viewed as friends!

SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 18-20



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