

“Choose Your Friends Wisely”

Scripture: “A friend loveth at all times” Proverbs 17:17

The Bible is full of references regarding friends. The descriptions of good, and not so good, friends are filled throughout its pages. One story in particular reveals the importance of choosing your friends wisely. It's found in the second chapter of Mark's gospel. It's a story that features five friends, one of whom is crippled. Yet, in this story, we find the devotion and loyalty of his other four friends. They tried to get their friend to Jesus for healing, however, upon arrival they were faced with a dilemma. The house was packed and there was no way a stretcher was going to get through. Many of us would have left or at the very least told our friend that it was just not meant to be. However, these friends didn't take that approach. Instead, they decided to carry their friend, on a stretcher, to the top of the house, sit him to the side, and subsequently tear the roof apart. Upon creating a spot big enough, they lowered their friend directly in front of the great physician, Jesus Christ. After reading this story, one must question whether they are that type of friend to others, but also do they have this type of friends in their lives? Are you the kind of friend that will risk everything to better someone else?

These four young men showed the characters of great friends. They displayed genuine love and care by leaving their homes, work, or whatever else for the sake of taking their friend to Jesus. These friends were so determined to help their crippled buddy have an encounter with Jesus Christ because they knew that a moment with Jesus would change one's life forever. After Jesus saw what the friends had did first, then he addressed the needs of the sick man. Jesus was drawn by the faith of the four transporters. Please note from this verse Jesus saw the faith of the friends NOT THE FAITH OF THE SICK MAN! What does this teach us today? It reveals that Jesus can and will be moved by the display of faith from your friends or your faith for your friends. If the prayers and faith of your friends move God or your faith for them moves God, it is important that one chooses their friend wisely. So the following questions must be answered. Do you have friends of faith? Will you have faith for your friends? I bet the sick man was glad he chose friends that had faith. He had great friends!!!

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, help me to chose my friends wisely. Please send people in my life that will do anything to help point me to you. Help me be the friend to others that will do anything to make sure they meet you. Thank you for being a friend that never leaves me and will love me at all times. In Jesus Name, AMEN!*

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