



What Happened to My Friends?

October 12-13, 2019

Introduction

1. What story can your friends tell about you? (Your friends tell your story?)
2. What have your friends contributed to your life? (What is your return on investment, ROI?)
3. What have your friends stopped you from doing with your family (Did they isolate you?)
4. Are you equally yoked with the right kind of friends (Do your friends link with your purpose?)

Note: 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV): 14 Do not be **unequally yoked** together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

Balance: This is not a verse that requires a believer to only have believing friends. It warns us about the danger of yoking with someone that can damage your future.

I. Three Amazing Friends We Can Learn From

1. **Jonathan and David** (Friends who managed family **differences**, 1 Samuel 18)
 2. **Three Hebrew Boys** (Friends who had **consistent values**, 3 musketeers plus 1, Daniel 1-6)
 3. **Twelve Disciples** (They had a **common dream** that they sacrificed for, Matthew 10:1-2)
- Matthew 10:1 (NKJV): And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

Closing Thoughts:

II. T.D. Jakes Thoughts About Friendship (Destiny: Step into Your Purpose)

- “The true barometer to **help you evaluate the relationships to invest in must center on** this significant question: **How does this person fit into my destiny and purpose?**”
- If you would **approach your time with the same sense of fiduciary duty as your money**, you would see a far greater return.
- **People who are truly engaged want to know, “Where do I fit in your life and destiny?”**
- Until that question can be answered, **good people will leave you because they can’t live in the clutter of your indecisiveness!** To maximize the years you have left, **clear the clutter!**”

How to Prioritize Your Relationships

1. The first thing to do in **deciding what stays in your life** and what goes is to determine what nourishes you and strengthens you.
2. To move from survival to success, we must begin by **investing in what invests in us. Pour into relationships that pour into you.**

III. Three Types of Friends in Your Lifetime

Deuteronomy 25: 4 says, “Don’t muzzle the mouth of the ox that treads the grain,” it simply means feed what is feeding you! If you’re feeding people who can’t feed you, it’s only a matter of time before that **constant feeding will begin to drain you.** (Page 55)

1. Confidant: “You will have very few of them in your lifetime. In fact, if you find two or three in your entire lifetime, you are tremendously blessed. Confidants are the people who love you unconditionally. They are into you. They have your back whether you’re up or down. They are with you for the long haul. If you get in trouble, they won’t abandon you. Confidants will come get you out of jail. They’ll pull you out of a drug house and love you all the while. You need a good confidant in order to reach destiny.”

2. Constituents: “You will likely have many of them in your lifetime. Constituents are not into you; rather, they are into what you are for. They are not for you, nor does your destiny matter to them. But as long as you are for what they are for, they will walk with you and work with you. But it ends there. Never think they are on your team to stay for the long haul.”

- “Understand the nature of constituents because these are the people who will walk away if they meet someone else who will further their agenda. Constituents are always looking for a better deal. They will abandon you to hook up with another person who better serves their purpose or their need. But if you understand who constituents are and their role and purpose in your life, you won’t be too sad when they walk away. They were never in your life.”

3. Comrades: “The last people group you will encounter is comrades. They are not for you, nor are they for what you are for. They are against what you are against. Comrades make strange bedfellows. They will team up with you, not so you can reach your destiny, but to fight a common enemy. Don’t be fooled or confused by the close connection. They will only be with you until the victory happens. **Comrades are like scaffolding.** They come into your life to fulfill a purpose. They give you support for a time, but that time will only last as long as the common enemy lasts. When the purpose is complete, the scaffolding is removed. But don’t be upset when the scaffolding is taken away, because the building is still standing.”

Note: (This reminds me of some marriages and the way kids become the common cause. Once they grow up the family takes down the scaffolding and they feel no emotional or relational connection.

Next Time: Q/A in the building and online: About Relationships (October 19-20)

- What do I do about relationships that have a low return on investment?
- Can I get rid of my mate because the return on investment is low?
- Why is it harder to relate to your children as they grow up sometime?

Send your questions to: Pastor@overcomingbyfaith.org