



David, A Man After God's Own Heart

Finding help from friends

2 Samuel 15; 17:27-29; 19:1-8

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Core value: Connect

Four kinds of friends

1. **Acquaintances**- those we have random and superficial interaction
1. **Casual friends**- those we have more contact, common interests and more intentional conversations
2. **Close friends**- those we share similar life goals and are able to discuss the hard questions. We can do lots of stuff together because we enjoy each other. We will go the extra mile for them.
3. **Intimate friends**- those few people who we have regular contact and a deep commitment. We are open and vulnerable with them, can take their criticism and would do anything for them because we love them and we know they love us.

^{NIV} **Proverbs 18:24** A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Amplified

The man of *too many* friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces *and* come to ruin, But there is a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother.

<01695> qbeD' *dabeq* (180a)

Meaning: a clinging, cleaving

Origin: from 1692

Usage: attached(1), held fast(1), who sticks(1).

David was in a very bad place and could easily have been lonely in his ordeal.

" Language... has created the word 'loneliness' to express the pain of being alone. And it has created the word 'solitude' to express the glory of being alone. "

Paul Tillich

2 Samuel 15:13-18

David's friends are like friends we need and friends we ought to be.

1. Ittai was a friend who was willing to go the extra mile. (2 Samuel 15:19-22)

^{NIV} **2 Samuel 15:19** The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland. ²⁰ You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you." ²¹ But Ittai replied to the king, "**As surely as the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be.**" ²² David said to Ittai, "Go ahead, march on." So Ittai the Gittite marched on with all his men and the families that were with him.

^{NLT} **Proverbs 17:17** A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

^{NLT} **1 John 3:18** Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

2. **Zadok and Abiathar were friends who were available to do what was needed in their specialty.** (2 Samuel 15:24-29)

^{NIV} **2 Samuel 15:24-29** Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city. ²⁵ Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. ²⁶ But if he says, 'I am not pleased with

you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him." ²⁷ The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Aren't you a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar. You and Abiathar take your two sons with you. ²⁸ I will wait at the fords in the desert until word comes from you to inform me." ²⁹ **So Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of God back to Jerusalem and stayed there.**

3. Hushai was a friend with compassionate "hug" and willing to do what he could in his limitations. (2 Samuel 15:32-37)

^{NIV} **2 Samuel 15:32-39** When David arrived at the summit, where people used to worship God, Hushai the Arkite was there to meet him, **his robe torn and dust on his head.** ³³ David said to him, "If you go with me, **you will be a burden to me.** ³⁴ But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; I was your father's servant in the past, but now I will be your servant,' then you can help me by frustrating Ahithophel's advice. ³⁵ Won't the priests Zadok and Abiathar be there with you? Tell them anything you hear in the king's palace. ³⁶ Their two sons, Ahimaaz son of Zadok and Jonathan son of Abiathar, are there with them. Send them to me with anything you hear." ³⁷ So **David's friend Hushai** arrived at Jerusalem as Absalom was entering the city.

4. Shobi, Machir and Barzillai were friends who shared their stuff without being asked. (2 Samuel 17:27-29)

^{NIV} **2 Samuel 17:27-29** When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Makir son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim ²⁸ brought bedding and bowls and articles of pottery. They also brought wheat and barley, flour and roasted grain, beans and lentils, ²⁹ honey and curds, sheep, and cheese from cows' milk for David and his people to eat. For they said, "The people have become hungry and tired and thirsty in the desert."

5. Joab was a friend who shared hard words to get him back in shape. (2 Samuel 19:1-8)

^{NIV} **2 Samuel 19:1** Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." ² And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son." ³ The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle. ⁴ The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!" ⁵ Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. ⁶ You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead. ⁷ Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come upon you from your youth till now." ⁸ So the king got up and took his seat in the gateway. When the men were told, "The king is sitting in the gateway," they all came before him. Meanwhile, the Israelites had fled to their homes.

^{NIV} **Proverbs 27:6** Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

^{NIV} **Ephesians 4:15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Acquaintances, casual, close or intimate friends?

- ✓ A friend willing to go the extra mile in being alongside of someone even if it is sacrificial.
- ✓ A friend who is available with our expertise to do what is needed.
- ✓ A friend with a compassionate hug. A friend who finds ways to help even with limitations.
- ✓ A friend who extends generosity in times of need.
- ✓ A friend who has the trust and the guts to share hard words.

Finding Help from Friends

2 Samuel 15; (17:27-29; 19:1-2); Psalms 55

1. How does 2 Samuel 15 relate to Psalms 55: 12-13?
2. What did Absalom ultimately want? (15:12)
3. How did Absalom's deception escalate? (15:3,7-8,14)
4. What did Absalom's betrayal cost? (18:7)
5. Read Ps. 55: 16-19; how did David find hope for his despair?
6. Read Ps. 55: 22-23; what words help to carry us during times of betrayal?