

Why That Friend?

READING

1 Samuel 18-20

Ruth 1-4

1 Kings 19

2 Kings 2

Acts 9-15

John 15

Nobody has greater love than this, that someone should lay down his life for the sake of his friends.

Ever wondered why you have the friends you do?
Ever wonder if God organised that for a reason?

Let's look at a few Bible examples and see what we learn.

Jonathan and David is a good one.

Saul and Jonathan both recognised Yahweh's call on David's life.

Saul was jealous and got defensive and tried to kill him.

Jonathan went against his father and formed a deep friendship. Promising to be there for each other no matter what.

Did God send Jonathan?

Are you the Jonathan to some of your friends? Or are they yours, and you're the David?

Called by God, but needing close, reliable, supportive friends who will be there for you when you need them.

Is there a David somewhere you should be a Jonathan for?

Ruth and Naomi was a bit of a special case. And a bit beyond friendship given their family relationship of daughter and mother in law.

But just like Jonathan, Ruth vowed to stick by Naomi no matter what. No matter where.

And she followed through. Leaving her home country. And being there for her mother in law.

And by the way became an ancestor in Yeshua's earthly family line!

Elijah and Elisha were more than friends too really.

Mentor and disciple. But so dedicated to each other.

Elisha ended up refusing to leave Elijah's side, until he was taken up to Heaven in front of him and he literally couldn't follow.

Do you have a mentor? Are you devoted to them? Caring for them? What would you be willing to do for them if they needed it?

Do you have disciples? Do you think of them as family. Really close friends. Friends you would do anything for?

And Paulus and Barnabas.

We know now that Paulus' conversion was real. But back then a lot of the disciples weren't so sure. After all this was the guy who had been arresting and even killing their spiritual brothers and sisters.

But Barnabas recognised God's hand, and stepped up to vouch for him, and to befriend him in a time when he really needed someone to do that. They went on to be missionaries together. Changing lives and supporting each other in ministry.

Do you have a Barnabas? Someone who sees your ministry as being "from God", and is willing to help and support you in it.

Even if it means taking the chance and standing up for you when others aren't so sure?

Or are you the Barnabas, and you see people with spiritual calling on their lives, and you want to be there for them and be the hands and feet who help make that calling a reality, and to help with the practical side of that ministry?

And finally, even Yeshua needed friends. He even declared them as friends in John 15. Can you imagine if they were his disciples but were stand offish, not willing to be his friend as well, just learning from him, but staying detached.

How much more difficult would that have made Yeshua's mission here on Earth?

And it seems Johannes was particularly close with him.

Are you Yeshua's friend now? Seriously, do you think of him as your friend?

What's stopping you?

Friendship is a big commitment.

Yeshua showed us the way ... "This is my command, that you love one another just as I've loved you. Nobody has greater love than this, that someone should lay down his life for the sake of his friends."

Is anyone else willing to do that for you?

They probably are you know. Yahweh has already called them to be there for you.

Are you willing to do that for anyone else?

Be thankful for the friends Yahweh has called for you.

Be committed to those he has called you to be friends with.

And pray about whether there is anyone he's calling you now to become friends with. No matter the cost.