**Series: Relationship Series**

**Title: Amazing Friendships**



**Mark‬**

“*When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God’s word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.” But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, “What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!” Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk’? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, “We’ve never seen anything like this before!””*

*https://www.bible.com/116/mrk.2.1-12.nlt*

1. **Friends \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“Don’t be concerned for your own good **but for the good of others.”**

https://www.bible.com/116/1co.10.24.nlt

“Remember**, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it**.”

https://www.bible.com/116/jas.4.17.nlt

“The generous will prosper; **those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.”**

https://www.bible.com/116/pro.11.25.nlt

“We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. **We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.**”

https://www.bible.com/116/rom.15.1-2.nlt

1. **Friends \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**“Carry each other’s burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

https://www.bible.com/111/gal.6.2.niv

““A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”**

https://www.bible.com/111/jhn.13.34.niv

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, **so that we can comfort those in any trouble** with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

https://www.bible.com/111/2co.1.3-4.niv

1. **Friends \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

“Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let’s not let it slip through our fingers. **We don’t have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He’s been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin**. So let’s walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.”

https://www.bible.com/97/heb.4.14-16.msg

“As Jesus entered the village of Capernaum, a Roman captain came up in a panic and said**, “Master, my servant is sick**. He can’t walk. He’s in terrible pain.”

“Oh, no,” said the captain. “I don’t want to put you to all that trouble. Just give the order and my servant will be fine. I’m a man who takes orders and gives orders. I tell one soldier, ‘Go,’ and he goes; to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

Taken aback, Jesus said, “I’ve yet to come across this kind of simple trust in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know all about God and how he works. This man is the vanguard of many outsiders who will soon be coming from all directions—streaming in from the east, pouring in from the west, sitting down at God’s kingdom banquet alongside Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then those who grew up ‘in the faith’ but had no faith will find themselves out in the cold, outsiders to grace and wondering what happened.”

Then Jesus turned to the captain and said, “Go. What you believed could happen has happened**.” At that moment his servant became well.”**

https://www.bible.com/97/mat.8.5-6,8-13.msg

“From there Jesus took a trip to Tyre and Sidon. They had hardly arrived when **a Canaanite woman came down from the hills and pleaded, “Mercy, Master, Son of David! My daughter is cruelly afflicted by an evil spirit.”**

Jesus ignored her. The disciples came and complained, “Now she’s bothering us. Would you please take care of her? She’s driving us crazy.” Jesus refused, telling them, “I’ve got my hands full dealing with the lost sheep of Israel.” Then the woman came back to Jesus, went to her knees, and begged. “Master, help me.” He said, “It’s not right to take bread out of children’s mouths and throw it to dogs.” She was quick: “You’re right, Master, but beggar dogs do get scraps from the master’s table.” Jesus gave in. “Oh, woman, your faith is something else. What you want is what you get!” Right then her daughter became well.”

https://www.bible.com/97/mat.15.21-28.msg

“Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. Welcome him in the Lord’s love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn’t do from far away.”

https://www.bible.com/116/php.2.25-30.nlt

1. **Friends \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

While he was preaching God’s word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. **Seeing THEIR faith**, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.”

“**Her husband can trust her,** and she will greatly enrich his life. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.”

https://www.bible.com/116/pro.31.11-12.nlt

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**Colossians 3:13 (NIV)**
13  **Bear with each other** and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)**
9  Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:
10  **If one falls down, his friend can help him up.** But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

“Can two people **walk together** without agreeing on the direction?”

https://www.bible.com/116/amo.3.3.nlt

““Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.” But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. **Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried**. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!” When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more. So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. “Is it really Naomi?” the women asked.”

<https://www.bible.com/116/rut.1.15-19.nlt>

**Answer key:**

1. **Friends who are truly concerned about you**.
2. **Friends who will faithfully carry you.**
3. **Friends who will radically cut through life’s barriers for you.**
4. **Friends who will fully believe in you.**

**5. Friends who will lovely walk with you.**