

A TRUSTED FRIEND

TEXT: (Proverbs 25:9-10, MSG)

⁹ In the heat of an argument, don't betray confidences; ¹⁰ Word is sure to get around, and no one will trust you.

INTRODUCTION

1. "You are my friends if you do what I command....This is my command: Love each other" (John 15:14, 17, NIV).

I. JESUS—THE ULTIMATE FRIEND

1. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13, KJV).

A. Jesus Notices Our Needs

1. "Your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" (Matthew 6:8, NLT).

B. Jesus Showed Compassion

1. "A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. 'If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,' he said.
Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed" (Mark 1:40-42, NLT).
2. "And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.... So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him" (Matthew 20:30, 34, KJV).
3. "Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way'" (Matthew 15:32, NIV).
4. "Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38, NLT).

C. Jesus Comes to Your Rescue

1. "The religion scholars and Pharisees led in a woman who had been caught in an act of adultery. They stood her in plain sight of everyone and said, 'Teacher, this woman was caught red-handed in the act of adultery. Moses, in the Law, gives orders to stone such persons. What do you say?" (John 8:3-5, MSG).
2. "In the very act" (John 8:4, KJV).
3. "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm" (Mark 4:38, KJV).

II. Characteristics Of A Friend

A. Always Loves

1. "A Friend Loveth at All Times" (Proverbs 17:17, KJV).

2. "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance" (I Corinthians 13:4-7, NLT).
3. "Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end" (I Corinthians 13:4-7, MSG).

B. A Friend Is Supportive.

1. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous" (Psalm 34:19, KJV).
2. "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17, NIV).
3. "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

C. A Friend Holds a Matter in Confidence

1. "Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot" (Proverbs 25:19, NLT).

III. BEING A TRUE CONFIDANT

1. "In the heat of an argument, don't betray confidences" (Proverbs 25:9, MSG).

A. No One Else Needs to Know

1. "Hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division" (Galatians 5:20, NLT).
2. "Don't betray confidences" (Proverbs 25:9, MSG).
3. "Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife. The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts" (Proverbs 26:20-22, NIV).

B. Rape of a Reputation

1. "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13, NIV).
2. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" (Exodus 20:16, KJV).

3. “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the LORD. Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt” (Leviticus 19:15-17, NIV).
3. “And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39, NIV).

C. Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

1. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35, NIV).
2. “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. “In the heat of an argument, don’t betray confidences; Word is sure to get around, and no one will trust you” (Proverbs 25:9-20, MSG).