

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: The Big Letdown | Part 2: At All Times

## **John 13:35 (NLT)**

<sup>35</sup> “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

## **Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

## **Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

**A friend loves at all times – a friend is always loyal.**

## **Romans 12:18 (NLT)**

<sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

## **4 Problems That Keep Us from Experiencing Authentic and Enduring Friendships**

- 1) The spirit of offense
- 2) A lack of commitment
- 3) A lack of humble submission
- 4) A lack of knowledge or conviction as how to repair what is broken

**The root of destruction in most relationships comes from carrying a spirit of offense and rejecting the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness.**

## **James 4:1-12 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. <sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

<sup>4</sup> You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. <sup>6</sup> And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

“God opposes the proud  
but gives grace to the humble.”

<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. <sup>9</sup> Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep

grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

**God gives grace generously! And so should we.**

**1 Corinthians 6-10a (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! <sup>2</sup> Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? <sup>3</sup> Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. <sup>4</sup> If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church? <sup>5</sup> I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues? <sup>6</sup> But instead, one believer sues another—right in front of unbelievers!

<sup>7</sup> Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated? <sup>8</sup> Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong and cheat even your fellow believers.

<sup>9</sup> Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves.

**Matthew 5:21-24 (NLT)**

<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

<sup>23</sup> "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

**Mark 11:25 (NLT)**

<sup>25</sup> "But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too."

**The first step is to go to the person we have issue with and have a conversation for the purposes of reconciliation and forgiveness.**

**Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. <sup>16</sup> But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector."

*"Wounds from a friend can be trusted..." ~Proverbs 27:6*

*"It is better to heed the rebuke of a wise person than to listen to the song of fools." ~Ecclesiastes 7:5*

*"As Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." ~Proverbs 27:17*

**We must be committed to the process and work of being a friend.**

**Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)**

<sup>21</sup> And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Philippians 2:1-8 (NLT) Have the Attitude of Christ**

<sup>1</sup> Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? <sup>2</sup> Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

<sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

<sup>6</sup> Though he was God,  
he did not think of equality with God  
as something to cling to.

<sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;  
he took the humble position of a slave  
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God  
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

*"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."  
~Matthew 18:21-22*

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you."  
~Ephesians 4:32*

*"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." ~Colossians 3:13*

*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." ~James 5:16*

*"Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs." ~Proverbs 10:12*

*"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." ~1 Peter 4:8*