

“ADJ - Relationships Part 2” (7-17-22)

Introduction: Relationships - they are essential in the life of a disciple!

Review: Renewed Mind & Diverse Body. Pillars for healthy relationships: Grace, Humility, Love

This Week: Pillars continued: Generosity, Faithfulness, Honor, & Blessing

Main Text: Romans 12 & a glimpse of **Jesus** with his friends from **Bethany** (Mary, Martha, & Lazarus)

1) Generosity

Romans 12:13 (ESV)

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Note: Choose to Generously share your life - this is both financial contribution & personal welcome

*Practical way to understand how to walk out Generosity of Life - Home & Wallet

Acts 4:32, 34-35 (ESV)

(32) Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. . . (34) There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold (35) and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Note: Notice they opened their life to each other by having an open home & an open wallet.

- They are involved enough to be aware of each others needs
- It permeated their culture & it was both encouraged by & led by their leadership
- **Recent Example** in our church: anonymous donation

Example: from Jesus' friendships - consider Mary & Martha welcoming & serving Him . . .

Luke 10:38-42 (ESV)

(38) Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. (39) And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. (40) But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.” (41) But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, (42) but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Note: This is both practical - open home, serving, & also personal - sitting with each other, engaged in life!

2) Faithfulness

Romans 12:12, 15 (ESV)

(12) Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. . . (15) Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Note: Faithful Friends are Joyful & Patient - be in it together! (**Personal Example:** Dave & Sandy)

*Prayer is the key - “constant in prayer.” Examples: thanksgiving, petition, anguish, trust

Example: from Jesus friendships - consider how he responds when Lazarus gets sick & dies . . .

John 11:1-3 (ESV)

(1) Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (2) It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. (3) So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

Note: There is deep connection of friendship - and Jesus is invited into their difficulty

John 11:4-8, 16 (ESV)

(4) But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." (5) Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. (6) So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. (7) Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." (8) The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" . . . (16) So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Note: We tend to focus on his delay, instead of focusing on what it cost him to go! He loved his friends - and despite the risks & warnings, he went to them.

John 11:21-26 (ESV)

(21) Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (22) But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." (23) Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." (24) Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." (25) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Note: Jesus listens & offers hope!

John 11:32-35 (ESV)

(32) Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (33) When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. (34) And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." (35) Jesus wept.

Note: Jesus is present in the pain & mourns!

Faithfully Present - Engaged & aware so I can be a faithful friend - no matter what the situation calls for!

3) Honor**Romans 12:10 (ESV)**

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

- All people are worthy of Honor - we have intrinsic value as image bearers . . .

Genesis 1:27-28a (ESV)

(27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (28) And God blessed them.

- We should also honor people when they are worthy of it. Example: growth in character & faithfulness . . .

1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV)

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

Personal Example: Church Leadership Training - Chair of affirmation

Example: from Jesus friendships - Mary anoints Jesus before his death . . .

John 12:1-3 (ESV)

(1) Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. (2) So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. (3) Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Note: Mary honors Jesus with herself & her wealth - some complain against her, and Jesus responds . . .

John 12:7-8 (ESV)

(7) Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. (8) For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

Mark 14:6-9 (ESV)

(6) Jesus said, ". . . She has done a beautiful thing to me . . . (8) She has done what she could . . . (9) And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Mutually honoring relationships - building each other up based on who we are, and what we have done!

4) Blessing

Romans 12:14, 17-18 (ESV)

(14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. . . (17) Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. (18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Example: Back to Mary anointing Jesus - notice the Disciples & Judas specifically . . .

John 12:4-6 (ESV)

(4) But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, (5) "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (6) He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Note: In Judas' mind he justified his attitude, but in reality he was driven by his own desires! We trust our own judgment far too easily. We give ourselves the benefit of the doubt.

Mark 14:4-5 (ESV)

(4) There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? (5) For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her.

Note: Complaining, Gossip, and Slander by several disciples encouraged Judas in his broken way of thinking!

This leads directly to Judas' ultimate downfall . . .

Mark 14:10-11 (ESV)

(10) Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. (11) And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Note: This should be a warning for us all - we never think of ourselves as being a Judas in a relationship, but when we justify our curses, we walk that same road of death.

- Cursing & self-justification kill relationships.
- Instead we ought to choose to be at peace - as much as depends upon us!

Romans 12:19-21 (ESV)

(19) Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (20) To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Note: When we choose to curse - we are judging where only God is meant to judge. When we bless - we put people (including ourselves!) in God's hands. This is how we overcome evil with good!

***Choose blessing when cursed, choose peace & so overcome evil instead of being overcome by it!**

Conclusion: Remember, we are Diverse People in need of Renewal - therefore, let's be anchored in these pillars of healthy relationship - Grace, Humility, Love, Generosity, Faithfulness, Honor, & Blessing!