

“Let’s Go There”: An Honest Journey Into Advent | Wk 2

11/22/2020 | A Seattle Church: [@ASeattleChurch](#)

“Our Friendships” by [Pastor Tyler Gorsline](#)

SERMON NOTES:

Pastor Tyler Asked us to Look Inward:

1. What is God calling you to in friendship?
2. Biggest challenges to friendship in this moment?
3. What is your experience of friendship in this season?
4. In 3 words, to write down your current experience of friendship?

Our Moment could be described as:

- In many ways, friendship is under assault
- Our definition of friendship is unclear
- We are so connected, yet don’t have great friendships?
- Loneliness is an Epidemic
- Mental Health + Depression on Rise
- Discouragements that friendship was made to solve, are unresolved
- Increases in Drug Use, Addiction, Suicide Rates

Our Search for Solutions:

- Historically we believed that addiction breaks friendship, we now know that a lack of friendship breeds addiction
- You are perfectly positioned to be a part of the friendship solution
 - To be a friend to the friendless
- God said “Let’s go there” and sent Jesus to “call us friends”
- We need God to “go there” again. Jesus to “arrive” (“advent”) in to our friendship crisis
- We can turn to John 15:13-15 for our Role in God’s Friendship Vision

John 15:13-15 Shows us that:

1. Verse 15: Jesus models how true friendship is vulnerable
2. Verse 13: Jesus reveals that true friendship is sacrificial
3. Verse 14: Jesus teaches us that true friendship requires integrity

Impact/Key Points:

- True spiritual friendship comes from right alignment with God, shared with others.
- Your intentionality in friendship is a living testimony to a friendless world.
- We cannot expect to receive friendship if we don’t give it vulnerably like Jesus.
- Your life is secure in Jesus. You have nothing to lose in being a good friend.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

WARM-UP: “Together”

1. What was the best gift that you received from a friend?
2. What was an encouraging word that you received from a friend?

WORD: “Truth”

Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Pastor Tyler invited and challenged us to be a Spiritual Friend To Others. He looked at how John 15:13-15 calls us to be vulnerable, sacrificial, and to have integrity in our pursuit of friendships. Jesus modeled how the more vulnerable of a friend we are, the more likely you are to receive true friendship in turn. Friendship is costly, yet worth the fruit. You only get what you give. Be the friend you wish you had, by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within you. Tyler noted that the greatest witness and impact we can have in the world, is to be people who love each other like Jesus loved his friends (John 13:35), first loved us (1 John 4:10). True friendship also lives out its value, by befriending the friendless who don't yet know Jesus' love. Each of us get to look honestly at our life and to ask not how the church can be our friend. Rather, we get to ask how we can befriend others for their own good. God decided to say “let's go there” and came to befriend us “while we were still sinners. What if you were known like Jesus for being “a friend of sinners” (Matthew 9:11; 11:16–19). If you truly believed your own friend needs would be met, how much friendship would you give away freely?

Read John 15:13-15

Read v 13

- a. How is “greater love” revealed to us in this verse? What actions contribute to its make up?

Read v 14

- b. What embodies a “friend” in the eyes of God?

Read v 15

- c. How does one go from being a “servant” to a “friend” according to Jesus?
- d. Why does Jesus make known everything that He has heard from the Father to us?

SUPPLEMENTARY STUDY MATERIAL

1. Read John 12:24, Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, and 27:17. Consider the vision the scriptures provide for friendship and ask if it mirrors your own. Note how 1 Corinthians 15:33 calls us to not be deceived by shallow “friendship”. It says that “Bad company ruins good morals.” Do you assume all of your friendships are for your good? Have you been disappointed by their false promise and instead felt like Paul in 2 Tim 4: 16-17A. Could you instead do as 1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV challenges us to do. What would happen if you had friendships built on a shared commitment to “earnest counsel” (Prov 27:9 ESV), “faithful wounds” (Prov 27:6 ESV), and “fear of the almighty” (Job 6:14 ESV). How would living as Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ESV models transform your friendships and your capacity as a friend of God and others. Remember in all of this that “The church at its best, is the best example of what God can do with human community.” (Stanley Hauerwas). That Jesus spent 8 hours a day, every day, for 3 years with his disciples, (meaning he) would have spent over 8,000 hours with them...And after all that time, they still had major gaps in their understanding. We need a life that abides in him, with the support of others.” Pastor Rich Villodas)

APPLICATION: “Life”:

1. Who are some examples of friends that have truly exemplified friendship in your life?
2. What areas of your life are most difficult to be vulnerable in with friends?
3. What areas of your life are most difficult to sacrifice with friends?
4. Who are some people that God is calling you, with integrity, to extend true friendship towards?

PRAYER “Way”

1. Ask God to search the areas of your life that He wants you to be more vulnerable, sacrificial and have more integrity in.
2. Ask God for wisdom and courage to extend true spiritual friendship to those who are so desperately in need of it.
3. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
 - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. Watch this video for our latest [COVID-19 Pastoral Update](#) from Pastor Tyler
2. We will be collecting coats, new socks, ski gloves, and lightly used running shoes in South Lake Union at The Collective. Drop off bins will be located in the lobby until Friday, December 4th. If you would like to volunteer toward this effort, please send an email to info@aseattlechurch.com. Thank you for helping keep Seattle warm this winter! A Seattle Church, The Collective, Outdoor Research, Redeeming Soles, and Mosaic Seattle are partnering together to collect coat donations for the homeless in our city. This year our coat donations will go to Recovery Cafe, whose mission is to help individuals traumatized by homelessness, addiction, and other mental health challenges. They will distribute the items to those in need on our behalf.
3. Invite a Friend to join us online for our **New Series “Let’s Go There: An Honest Journey into Advent” Starts with you this Sunday**
4. **Share testimony of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? [HERE](#)**
5. **How can we come alongside you in more specific ways as a church? [Let us know.](#)**
6. **All-Church Prayer Call on Wednesday’s from 1230-1pm each week.**
1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
7. **If you haven’t yet, sign up for ASC Newsletter Weekly Updates [HERE.](#)**
8. Have you been baptized? If that is your next step in repentance and faith, **[let us know.](#)**