

Advance to the Manger — Day 20

Advance in Friendship

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 TPT

“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.”

Introduction:

The Gift of Friendship

- Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- Explore the value of friendship and community.
- Cherish and nurture meaningful relationships during the Christmas season.

Heart Reflection

1. The Power of Companionship:

God created us to thrive in community and to experience the blessings of friendship. As we advance towards the manger, let us embrace the power of companionship. Just as the verse says, "Two are better than one." Friendships provide us with support, encouragement, and accountability. They bring joy, laughter, and a sense of belonging. By journeying together towards the manger, we can experience the transformative power of Jesus' birth in deeper and more meaningful ways.

2. Strength in Unity: (Psalm 133)

The journey towards the manger can be challenging at times. We may face obstacles, doubts, and discouragement along the way. However, when we have friends by our side, we find strength in unity. True friends lift us up when we fall, support us when we are weak, and remind us of God's faithfulness. Together, we can overcome obstacles, grow in faith, and experience the transformative work of Christ in our lives.

3. Reflecting Christ's Love:

Friendship is not just about receiving support; it is also about giving of ourselves to others. As we advance towards the manger, let us reflect Christ's love through our friendships. Let us be the ones who lift others up when they fall, who extend a helping hand, and who offer a listening ear. By showing Christ's love through our friendships, we become a tangible expression of God's grace and mercy to those around us.

Call To Action

- **Nurture Friendships:**
 - Take time to invest in your friendships.
 - Reach out to your friends, spend time together, and build deeper connections.
 - Be intentional about cultivating relationships that are based on love, support, and encouragement.
 - Pray for your friends and be there for them in times of need.
- **Be Vulnerable:**

- True friendship requires vulnerability.
 - Open up to your friends about your struggles, doubts, and dreams.
 - Allow them to walk alongside you on your journey towards the manger.
 - By being vulnerable, you create a safe space for others to be honest and open as well.
- **Show Christ's Love:**
 - Look for opportunities to show Christ's love through your friendships.
 - Be a source of encouragement.
 - Offer a helping hand.
 - Speak words of truth and grace.
 - Be a friend who points others towards the transformative power of Jesus' birth.

Take A Way

As we journey towards the manger, let us recognize the importance of friendship. Embrace the power of companionship and the strength found in unity. Nurture your friendships, be vulnerable, and show Christ's love through your relationships. By advancing towards the manger together, we can experience the transformative power of Jesus' birth in deeper and more meaningful ways. May our friendships be a reflection of God's love and a source of support and encouragement on our journey of faith.

Prayer:

Oh Lord,
thank You for the gift of friendship. Help us to value and nurture the relationships You have placed in our lives. Teach us to be true friends, supporting and encouraging one another as we advance towards the manger. Show us how to reflect Your love through our friendships, and may our relationships be a testimony of Your grace and mercy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.