

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. AND WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM. HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, AND THAT CONSISTS OF A SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT PROVERBS 17:17, A PASSAGE WHERE WE LEARN HOW TO BE A TRUE FRIEND. SO GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO PROVERBS 17. I'M GOING TO MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, FREDDIE CLAYTON JOINS US, AND HE'S ASKING THE QUESTION, AM I YOUR FRIEND OR YOUR ENEMY? JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT WHAT FRIGHTENS YOU. AUSTIN FOWLER SITS DOWN WITH BARRY GILREATH, AND THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT CHOOSING YOUR FRIENDS. IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: HOW DO WE RECONCILE THE PRINCE OF PEACE SAYING THAT HE DIDN'T COME TO BRING PEACE, BUT A SWORD? WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO PROVERBS 17, WHERE WE READ VERSE 17: A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES, AND A BROTHER IS BORN FOR ADVERSITY.

>> (SINGING)

>> OUR PASSAGE FOR TODAY COMES FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS. THESE ARE GENERAL WORDS OF WISDOM, GUIDELINES FOR OUR LIFE; BUT THEY'RE NOT GUARANTEES. AND MANY OF THESE PROVERBS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THE WISE KING SOLOMON AND THE GREAT WISDOM HE HAS. THE PROVERB WE'RE LOOKING AT TODAY, 17:17, BEGINS TELLING US THAT A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES. THIS TYPE OF LOVE IS THE DECISION LOVE, NOT THE MUSHY, GUSHY, EMOTION THAT MANY PEOPLE ASSOCIATE WITH LOVE, BUT THIS IS A DECISION TO DO WHAT'S IN THAT PERSON'S BEST INTEREST. YOU SEE, A FRIEND WHO LOVES THIS WAY IS GOING TO TELL THAT PERSON WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAR EVEN IF IT HURTS. PROVERBS 27:6, FAITHFUL ARE THE WOUNDS OF A FRIEND; BUT THE KISSES OF AN ENEMY ARE DECEITFUL. IF THOSE WOUNDS HELP GET US WHERE WE NEED TO BE, THAT'S A GOOD THING TO DO. SOMEBODY WHO'S JUST KISSING AND TELLING WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR WHEN THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT THING, THAT'S AN ENEMY. YOU SEE, THIS TYPE OF LOVE IS LIKE THE JOHN 3:16 LOVE. GOD LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS SON. HE DIDN'T NECESSARILY LIKE DOING IT, BUT HE DID IT FOR OUR BEST INTEREST. OR THE LOVE OF ROMANS 5:8, GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE TOWARD US IN THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. SO EVEN IF IT HURTS OR EVEN WHEN THE PERSON DIDN'T KNOW THEY NEED IT, THIS IS THE TYPE OF LOVE THAT WE SEE. AND WHEN THIS TYPE OF LOVE IS SHOWN, THE PERSON WHO LOVES US DOESN'T SAY I TOLD YOU SO, BUT THE PERSON WHO RECEIVES IT WILL LOOK BACK ON IT AND SAY, YEAH, YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THAT. GIVING THE GOOD ADVICE, THE KIND COUNSEL, MAYBE A BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND THAT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD OR A JOB THAT WASN'T WORTH IT. IF WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN A DO-OVER, WE WOULD HAVE LISTENED THE FIRST TIME. PROVERBS 27:17 SAYS, AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, SO A MAN SHARPENS THE COUNTENANCE OF HIS FRIEND. YOU SEE, THIS IS A TWO-WAY STREET. ONE PERSON NEEDS TO TELL THE OTHER WHAT

THEY NEED TO HEAR; BUT WE ALSO NEED TO LISTEN WHEN OUR GOOD FRIENDS TELL US WHAT WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR, BUT WE PROBABLY NEED TO HEAR IT. IN A BUSINESS SITUATION, THE BEST BUSINESSES HAVE EXECUTIVES THAT ARE CONTINUALLY CHALLENGING EACH OTHER SO THAT THE BEST DECISIONS ARE MADE. THE TEXT GOES ON TO SAY, A BROTHER IS BORN FOR ADVERSITY. YOU SEE, THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, THEY REQUIRE TRUE FRIENDS, SOMEBODY ELSE WHO'S LOOKING OUT FOR OUR BEST INTERESTS, THAT JOHN 3:16 TYPE OF LOVE. YOUR BROTHER SHOULD BE YOUR FRIEND. IF IT'S A PHYSICAL BROTHER, MINE LIVES 511 MILES AWAY FROM ME, BUT I KNOW RIGHT WHERE HE IS AND I CAN TALK TO HIM AT ANY TIME. THAT'S ONE OF THE FIRST CALLS WHEN ADVERSITY STRIKES. BUT SOMETIMES WE HAVE BROTHERS WHO AREN'T BLOOD. I'VE GOT A DEAR FRIEND, HASN'T LIVED IN THE SAME STATE AS I HAVE FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES; BUT WE CAN SPEND TIME TOGETHER, AND WHEN WE DO, FEEL LIKE I'M AT HOME. HE'LL CALL ME TO TASK WHEN I NEED IT. I STILL REMEMBER ADVICE FROM ONE FRIEND GIVEN TO ME OVER 20 YEARS AGO. I WISH I WOULD HAVE TAKEN IT; AND TO THIS DAY, I REGRET IT. YOU SEE, THAT FRIEND AND I, WE'VE DONE A LOT OF REJOICING AND WEEPING TOGETHER, ROMANS 12:15. IN FACT, FOR BOTH OF US, WHEN WE WERE GOING THROUGH SURGERY FOR CANCER OF A FAMILY MEMBER, HE WAS THERE FOR ME. AND WHEN HIS WIFE WAS GOING THROUGH CANCER SURGERY, IT ONLY MADE SENSE THAT I WAS THERE FOR HIM. YOU SEE, THESE SHARED DIFFICULTIES BIND US TOGETHER. DAVID AND JONATHAN HAD TO ENDURE SAUL, JONATHAN'S DAD, TRYING TO KILL DAVID. IT JUST BROUGHT THEM CLOSER. PAUL AND SILAS WERE IN PRISON TOGETHER. THEY WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER. LUKE CALLS THE MAN SILAS. PAUL IN HIS LETTERS REFERRED TO HIM AS SYLVANUS. IT'S TALKING ABOUT THE SAME MAN. SO AS WE SEEK TO APPLY THESE THINGS IN OUR LIVES, WE NEED TO CHOOSE OUR FRIENDS WISELY, BECAUSE BAD COMPANY DOES RUIN GOOD MORALS, 1ST CORINTHIANS 15:33. WE NEED TO CHOOSE TO BE A GOOD FRIEND THAT LOOKS OUT FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF OTHERS, EVEN WHEN THAT HURTS. WE ALSO NEED TO ACCEPT THE COUNSEL OF OUR FRIENDS THAT ARE LOOKING OUT FOR OUR BEST INTERESTS. RATHER THAN GET UPSET, CONSIDER MAYBE THERE'S SOME TRUTH HERE THAT I REALLY NEED TO HEAR. AND THE BEST FRIEND THAT WE COULD EVER HAVE IS GOD HIMSELF. HE WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND. HE SAYS YOU'RE MY FRIENDS IF YOU OBEY MY COMMANDMENTS, JOHN 14:15. AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. NOW, FREDDIE CLAYTON JOINS US FROM THE PASTIME PORCH, AND HE'S ASKING AN IMPORTANT QUESTION: IS HE YOUR FRIEND OR YOUR ENEMY?

>> FRIEND OR ENEMY? AT FIRST, THE GALATIAN CHRISTIANS COUNTED PAUL AS A FRIEND, INDEED, AS A BELOVED BROTHER WHO HAD LED THEM TO THE LORD. THEY WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO HELP HIM, EVEN TO THE EXTREME OF PLUCKING OUT THEIR OWN EYES HAD IT BEEN POSSIBLE, ACCORDING TO GALATIANS 4:15. NOW, HOWEVER, FALSE TEACHERS HAD SLANDERED PAUL, AND THE FICKLE GALATIANS HAD FALLEN FOR IT. THE FRUSTRATED APOSTLE ASKED IN THE VERY NEXT VERSE, HAVE I THEREFORE BECOME YOUR ENEMY BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH? HOW TRAGICALLY FOOLISH TO TREAT A FAITHFUL PROCLAIMER OF THE TRUTH AS AN ENEMY. BUT IT WAS REALLY NOTHING NEW. CENTURIES BEFOREHAND, GOD SENT ELIJAH TO REBUKE KING AHAB FOR MURDERING NABOTH TO STEAL HIS VINEYARD. AHAB REPROACHED THE PROPHET WITH THESE WORDS: HAVE YOU FOUND ME, OH, MY ENEMY? 1ST KINGS 21:20. TRUTH BE TOLD, ELIJAH WAS AHAB'S BEST FRIEND. WARNING THE KING OF AN IMPENDING JUDGMENT GAVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT. BUT EVIL AHAB AND

HIS WICKED WIFE JEZEBEL PREFERRED TO KILL THE MESSENGER. EVEN BEFORE THE TIME OF AHAB, REMEMBER THE APOSTATE KING SAUL ATTEMPTED TO MURDER HIS FAITHFUL WARRIOR, DAVID, DESPITE HAVING SWORN IN THE NAME OF THE LORD THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO DO SO. SAUL REPRIMANDED HIS OWN DAUGHTER FOR HIDING DAVID, REFERRING TO HIM AS MY ENEMY IN 1ST SAMUEL 19:17. LIKE AHAB AND THE GALATIANS, SAUL'S OWN SINS TWISTED HIS MIND INTO TREATING A TRUE FRIEND AS IF HE WAS AN ENEMY. LOYAL SERVANTS OF GOD WILL NOT SIMPLY TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR; BECAUSE THEY ARE YOUR FRIENDS, THEY WILL TELL YOU THE TRUTH. DO NOT EXPECT WORLDLY PEOPLE TO APPRECIATE YOU WHEN YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH. THEY MAY WELL SEE YOU AS THEIR ENEMY. REMEMBER, IT WAS THE LORD WHO OFFERED ENCOURAGEMENT TO HIS FOLLOWERS WITH THESE WORDS IN JOHN 15:18, IF THE WORLD HATES YOU, YOU KNOW IT HATED ME BEFORE IT HATED YOU. WHO ARE WE IN COMPANY WITH? THIS IS FREDDIE CLAYTON, WALKING AND TALKING IN THE LIGHT.

>> A TRUE FRIEND WILL TELL YOU THE TRUTH EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT. THANKS, FREDDIE. WELL, IT'S TIME TO GRAB PAPER AND SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH SO YOU CAN TAKE DOWN OUR CONTACT INFORMATION. YOU CAN USE IT TO ENROLL IN OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE. THAT'S GRADED BY SOMEONE HERE IN DUNLAP, TENNESSEE THAT WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND AND WILL SHOW IT TO YOU BY LEADING YOU THROUGH THE BIBLE. IN JUST A MOMENT, JIM DEARMAN IS GOING TO JOIN US.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE COURSE IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL MAIL IT TO YOU. WHILE YOU'RE ON OUR WEBSITE, YOU CAN WATCH OUR PROGRAMS OR INDIVIDUAL SEGMENTS ON DEMAND. GNT TV.ORG IS THE LOCATION, AND WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE. HERE'S JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS AS HE ASKS US, WHAT FRIGHTENS YOU?

>> MOST OF US WHO HAVE LIVED VERY LONG HAVE FACED SOME FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCES. SOME WERE THE RESULT OF OUR OWN ACTIONS, AND OTHERS WERE OUT OF OUR CONTROL ALTOGETHER. I REMEMBER AS A CHILD, I WANTED TO WATCH THE FRIDAY NIGHT HORROR MOVIE ON TV FEATURING ACTORS LIKE BELLA LUGOSI AS DRACULA AND BORIS KARLOFF AS FRANKENSTEIN. AND THEN WHEN THE MOVIE ENDED, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO TO SLEEP ALONE OR TURN OUT THE LIGHTS, SO I WOULD ASK MY BIG SISTER TO COME KEEP ME COMPANY. I REMEMBER HER ASKING ME WHY I SUBJECTED MYSELF TO SOMETHING THAT PRODUCED THAT KIND OF FEAR. I DON'T THINK I HAD A GOOD ANSWER. WELL, ALL THAT WAS MAKE-BELIEVE; BUT THERE IS A MOST FRIGHTENING FACT ALL OF US WILL HAVE TO FACE THAT IS REAL, AND THAT IS THAT EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD, ROMANS 14:12. NOW, THAT FACT MAY

NOT FRIGHTEN TOO MANY PEOPLE TODAY BECAUSE THEY SIMPLY IGNORE IT. THEY THINK IT IS NO MORE A REALITY THAN THOSE OLD HORROR MOVIES I WATCHED AS A CHILD. BUT IT IS TRUE THAT EACH OF US IS ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD AND WILL ONE DAY GIVE ACCOUNT BEFORE GOD AND CHRIST. BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS: BY OBEYING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AS SET FORTH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE CAN COMPLETELY REMOVE THE FEAR OF JUDGMENT. IF YOU KNEW TODAY WAS THE DAY YOU WOULD HAVE TO STAND BEFORE THE LORD, HOW WOULD YOU REACT, WITH ANXIETY OR WITH ANTICIPATION?

>> JUDGMENT IS SOMETHING THAT MORE PEOPLE SHOULD BE AFRAID OF. THANKS FOR THAT, JIM. HAVE YOU EVER MISSED AN EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY AND WISH YOU COULD WATCH IT? THERE'S A FEW WAYS YOU CAN DO THAT: THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR YOUTUBE CHANNEL, OR YOU CAN DOWNLOAD OUR APP AND WATCH IT ON YOUR PHONE OR TABLET. IF YOU DOWNLOAD THE ROKU, FIRE TV, GOOGLE TV, OR APPLE TV CHANNEL, YOU CAN WATCH US THERE ON DEMAND ON YOUR TELEVISION. A NEW EPISODE IS THERE EVERY SUNDAY, SO YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS. NOW AUSTIN FOWLER SITS DOWN WITH BARRY GILREATH, AND THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT CHOOSING THE RIGHT FRIENDS IN THIS EPISODE OF FABRIC OF FAMILY.

>> AUSTIN FOWLER, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK WITH US TODAY ON THIS SHORT SEGMENT OF FABRIC OF FAMILY THAT WE DO FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I KNOW THAT IN YOUR PAST, YOU'VE BEEN A SCHOOL TEACHER. YOU WORKED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND WHAT'S IT, MATHEMATICS?

>> YEAH, MATH TEACHER.

>> AND I KNOW YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME AROUND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. AND, YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE CHALLENGES THAT YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OFTENTIMES IS MAKING FRIENDS. AND SOMETIMES KIDS ARE PULLED IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, TO THIS PEER GROUP OR THAT PEER GROUP. BUT WHAT WE WANT TO THINK ABOUT TODAY IS MAYBE SOME GOOD PRACTICAL ADVICE WE CAN GIVE TO OUR KIDS AND GRANDKIDS TO CHOOSE OUR FRIENDS WISELY. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT COME TO YOUR MIND?

>> THE FIRST VERSE THAT COMES TO MIND IS 1ST CORINTHIANS, 15:33, EVIL COMPANIONS CORRUPT GOOD MORALS. AND SO THAT JUST SHOWS YOU HOW IMPORTANT CHOOSING YOUR FRIENDS ARE. AND I ALWAYS TELL THIS, TOO, WHEN I'M TALKING TO TEENS AND THINGS. I ALWAYS SAY EVIL COMPANIONS CAN CORRUPT GOOD MORALS, BUT GOOD COMPANIONS CAN BUILD UP GOOD MORALS.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> AND SO YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS WISELY. I'VE SEEN IT MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT MY TEACHING CAREER: A PRETTY GOOD KID COMES IN MY CLASS, HAS GOOD GRADES, DOES THEIR WORK, AND THEN THEY KIND OF BEGIN TO HAVE A FRIEND GROUP, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEY START SLIPPING, YOU KNOW, THEY KIND OF JUST FALL DOWN. AND YOU'RE KIND OF LIKE, WELL, WHAT HAPPENED? IT'S BECAUSE THAT PEER PRESSURE, TO TRY TO FIT IN, THEY HAD TO DO THESE THINGS, AND THEN THEY BEGIN FAILING CLASSES WHERE THEY HAD NEVER FAILED CLASSES. AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF

THEIR FRIEND GROUPS. SO SOME THINGS I WOULD SAY IS, NUMBER ONE, MAKE SURE CHRISTIANS ARE YOUR BEST FRIENDS.

>> THEY OUGHT TO BE.

>> THEY OUGHT TO BE. THEY'RE GOING TO BE THE ONES THAT HELP YOU GET TO HEAVEN. THEY SHOULDN'T BE PEER PRESSURING YOU TO DO THE BAD THINGS; THEY SHOULD BE PEER PRESSURING YOU TO DO THE GOOD THINGS: COME TO CHURCH, COME TO YOUTH EVENTS. SO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE ARE YOUR CORE FRIENDS. AND JUST STAY AWAY FROM EVIL. ABSTAIN FROM EVIL, I THINK IS WHAT 1ST THESSALONIANS SAYS.

>> WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO MAYBE A PARENT? THOSE ARE SOME THINGS WE COULD CERTAINLY SAY TO OUR KIDS, BUT WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT MAYBE COME TO MIND AS YOU THINK ABOUT THE PARENTS OF THESE KIDS, THINGS THEY CAN DO OR HELP THEIR CHILDREN TO FIND THAT GOOD, NUCLEAR FRIEND GROUP?

>> THE YOUTH GROUP AT YOUR LOCAL CONGREGATION SHOULD BE WHO THEY'RE HANGING OUT WITH THE MOST. THAT'D BE THE MOST WISE PEOPLE TO HANG OUT WITH. BUT ALSO, IF THEY'RE HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS ON THE WEEKEND, YOU NEED TO KIND OF LOOK INTO WHO THEY'RE HANGING OUT WITH. WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE THEY? DO YOU KNOW THEIR PARENTS? ARE THEIR PARENTS GOOD PEOPLE? ARE THEY INVOLVED? WHAT ARE THEIR PARENTS DOING? BECAUSE IF THEIR PARENTS AREN'T GOOD PEOPLE, THEN PROBABLY THEIR KIDS AREN'T AS WELL. AND SO YOU KIND OF WANT TO INVESTIGATE THAT AND LOOK INTO THOSE THINGS. YOU DON'T WANT TO ALLOW YOUR KID TO GO OVER THERE IF THEY'RE INVOLVED IN DRINKING AND THOSE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES.

>> YOU KNOW, ONE THING THAT'S VERY REVEALING ABOUT INDIVIDUALS IS IF THEY HAVE A SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT, LIKE FACEBOOK. AND I KNOW I OWN A BUSINESS, AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I DO WHEN I HAVE A POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE TO APPLY, I ALWAYS SEE IF THEY'VE GOT A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT. THAT TELLS ME A LOT ABOUT THAT PERSON: KIND OF LANGUAGE THEY USE, THEIR VALUES. I THINK THAT WOULD CERTAINLY BE HELPFUL FOR PARENTS. IF THERE'S A PARTICULAR KID THAT MY CHILD ENJOYS BEING AROUND OR WANTS TO GO STAY WITH THEM, DO A LITTLE RESEARCH AND SEE IF THAT CHILD HAS THE KIND OF VALUES THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO IMPART, BECAUSE PEER PRESSURE IS VERY, VERY POWERFUL, ISN'T IT?

>> IT IS. IT'S VERY REAL. I MEAN, IT'S SAD TO SEE SO MANY KIDS THAT, LIKE I SAID, SEEMED LIKE GOOD KIDS, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY'RE INVOLVED IN THESE THINGS THEY DON'T NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN. IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF PEER PRESSURE. AND THAT CAN BE AVOIDED BY AVOIDING THE SITUATIO. I REMEMBER A STATEMENT MY MOM ALWAYS TOLD ME IS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME AN ALCOHOLIC, DON'T DRINK. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ADDICTED TO SMOKING, DON'T SMOKE.

>> NEVER START.

>> YEAH. IF YOU NEVER TAKE THAT FIRST STEP, THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE THINGS. AND I THINK SO MANY PEOPLE TODAY GET INVOLVED IN THAT BECAUSE OF PEER PRESSURE BECAUSE OF WHO THEIR FRIEND

GROUP IS; AND IF THEY JUST AVOIDED THAT SITUATION COMPLETELY, THEY'D BE A DIFFERENT PERSON TODAY.

>> IF AS A PARENT I SUSPECT THAT MY CHILD IS IN WITH THE WRONG CROWD, THAT CAN BE VERY CHALLENGING TO CHANGE THAT DYNAMIC AS A PARENT. ANY THOUGHTS ALONG THAT LINE?

>> YEAH. IT'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT. TALK TO THEM AND REASON ABOUT THEM. TALK TO THEM ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU HAVE IS YOUR SOUL AND WHERE THAT'S GOING TO BE WITH GOD, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO PUT THAT INTO RISK OF THOSE THINGS. AND THERE'S CLUES AND THINGS THAT PARENTS CAN GET, BUT THEY NEED TO HAVE THOSE TOUGH CONVERSATIONS, BECAUSE IT'S BETTER TO ADDRESS IT EVEN EARLY ON THAN WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE INVOLVED IN IT AND HAVING TO GO TO THOSE MAYBE SPECIAL AGENCIES THAT HELP THEM GET OUT OF THOSE SITUATIONS.

>> YEAH. WELL, THOSE TIES WHEN THEY GROW, THEY CAN BECOME VERY, VERY STRONG. THAT'S TRUE. WELL, THOSE ARE SOME GOOD THOUGHTS. I APPRECIATE YOU SHARING WITH US SOME OF YOUR EXPERIENCES THERE AS A TEACHER AND THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR KIDS HAVING A GOOD PEER GROUP TO BE AROUND. AND CERTAINLY, AS YOU POINTED OUT, THE BEST PEER GROUP THEY CAN HAVE ARE THOSE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OR THOSE WHO ARE BEING RAISED IN THE WAY THAT THEY SHOULD GO. AND OF COURSE, THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED IN A LOCAL CONGREGATION AND THAT YOUR KIDS ARE ACTIVE IN THAT PARTICULAR LOCAL CHURCH AS WELL AND THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES THAT THEY HAVE. THANKS FOR BEING WITH US TODAY, AUSTIN.

>> GOOD TO BE HERE.

>> THANKS, GENTLEMEN. IS YOUR BIBLE YOUR FRIEND THAT YOU SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH EACH AND EVERY DAY? ONE WAY YOU CAN DO THAT IS WITH THE GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME PODCAST. IF YOU SUBSCRIBE, YOU CAN ENJOY TIME IN THE WORD OF GOD EVERY SINGLE DAY. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION TO ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN. YOU MAY WANT TO OPEN UP YOUR BIBLES TO MATTHEW 10 SO YOU'LL BE READY FOR THE DISCUSSION.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: HOW DO WE RECONCILE THE PRINCE OF PEACE SAYING THAT HE DIDN'T COME TO BRING PEACE, BUT A SWORD?

>> TROY, TODAY OUR QUESTION IS COMING FROM MATTHEW 10:34-36. AND THE QUESTION IS, DID JESUS COME TO BRING A SWORD OR PEACE?

>> HM. WELL, LET'S READ THE PASSAGE. SO MATTHEW CHAPTER 10, IT SAYS, DO NOT THINK THAT I CAME TO BRING PEACE ON EARTH. I DID NOT COME TO BRING PEACE, BUT A SWORD; FOR I'VE COME TO SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST

HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; AND A MAN'S FOES WILL BE THOSE OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD. THAT'S A GREAT QUESTION.

>> RIGHT. SO WHAT A GREAT QUESTION. BECAUSE OF THE TEXT, IT CAN VERY EASILY PROVOKE SOMEBODY TO ASK THIS KIND OF QUESTION. THEY MIGHT BE CONFUSED.

>> WELL, I MEAN, JESUS DID SAY THAT HE CAME TO BRING PEACE. ISAIAH CALLS HIM THE PRINCE OF PEACE. AND SO WE DO KNOW THAT PEACE IS A PART OF CHRISTIANITY.

>> AND THAT'S WHAT GOD DOES GIVE US. BUT I THINK AN IMPORTANT PART ABOUT THIS AND FOR US TO UNDERSTAND IS DEALING WITH THIS CONTEXT, RIGHT?

>> CONTEXT. EVERY TIME.

>> DEALING WITH THIS CONTEXT IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION, WHAT WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IS GOD'S MOTIVE. WHAT IS HIS MISSION? WHAT IS THE LORD'S MISSION IN COMING, AND WHY IS HE SAYING THIS? FIRST AND FOREMOST, BEFORE ALL ELSE, GOD'S MISSION IS TO RECONCILE MAN TO GOD. IT'S TO MAKE MAN AT PEACE WITH GOD.

>> AH, THERE'S THE KEY.

>> RIGHT. AND SO WHAT THIS PASSAGE IS REVEALING UNTO US IS THAT VERY PLAN. IN ORDER FOR THIS TO TAKE PLACE, GOD NEEDS HIS REVERENCE. GOD HAS TO COME BEFORE EVERYBODY. HE HAS TO BE PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE, IS WHAT IT'S TRYING TO SAY. AND SO BY USING THE SAYING THAT HE CAME TO BRING A SWORD AND NOT PEACE, RIGHT, THE SWORD IS THE DIVIDING LINE.

>> SO IT'S NOT AN ACTUAL PHYSICAL WEAPON THAT WE'RE TAKING UP AGAINST SOME PHYSICAL FOE; YOU'RE MAKING A SPIRITUAL APPLICATION, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THE CONTEXT IS TALKING ABOUT.

>> WE'RE MAKING A DIVIDING LINE HERE. WHO IS GOING TO SERVE THE LORD AS THEY OUGHT, VERSUS THOSE WHO WILL REJECT THE LORD BECAUSE THEY FEEL AS THOUGH THE COMMANDS ARE TOO MUCH, THEY'RE TOO BURDENSOME, AND I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT? WELL, GOD SAYS IF YOU WANT HEAVEN TO BE YOUR HOME, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO OBEY MY COMMANDS.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT ME FIRST.

>> WHICH EXPLAINS WHY THE WRITER OF HEBREW SAYS THAT THE WORD OF GOD IS LIKE A TWO-EDGED SWORD. AND SO IT WILL DIVIDE, BECAUSE THAT WORD IS GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN WHO'S GOING TO FOLLOW JESUS AND WHO'S NOT GOING TO FOLLOW JESUS.

>> ABSOLUTELY. AND I THINK OF EXODUS. I THINK OF EXODUS AND I THINK OF EXODUS 7, AS PHARAOH'S HEART WAS HARDENED. HIS HEART WAS HARDENED IN

THAT SITUATION, AND GOD KNEW IT WAS. HE KNEW IT WAS GOING TO CAUSE HIM TO BE HARDENED. BUT IT'S NOT THAT GOD MADE HIS HEART HARDENED IN THAT SITUATION. THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED.

>> PHARAOH DID IT HIMSELF.

>> PHARAOH DID IT HIMSELF BECAUSE HE WAS SO AGAINST WHAT GOD WAS TRYING TO DO. GOD WAS TRYING TO DO THE RIGHTEOUS THING AND HAVE HIS PEOPLE BE RELEASED, AND PHARAOH WAS SO AGAINST IT THAT HIS HEART WAS HARDENED.

>> AND THAT'S HOW WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE SWORD. BECAUSE IT'S NOT A PHYSICAL SWORD; IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS CAUSING THAT DIVISION LIKE A SWORD WOULD. AND SO THE PEOPLE MAKE UP THEIR MIND. AND EVEN WITHIN FAMILIES, AS WE SEE IN THAT CONTEXT, THERE'S GOING TO BE SOMEBODY WHO'S GOING TO DECIDE TO FOLLOW JESUS AND MAYBE SOMEBODY ELSE IN THE SAME FAMILY WHO DOESN'T WANT TO. IT'S GOING TO CAUSE DIVISION.

>> AND THE THING IS THAT GOD KNEW THAT, RIGHT?

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> GOD KNEW THAT. HE KNOWS THAT JUST LIKE HE KNEW WITH PHARAOH, HE WAS GOING TO REJECT HIM, HE WASN'T GOING TO ALLOW HIS PEOPLE TO GO. LIKewise DOES HE KNOW SOME PEOPLE ARE GOING TO REJECT HIM, MAYBE EVEN IN YOUR OWN FAMILY. SO YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE YOUR PATH.

>> SO DID JESUS BRING A SWORD OR PEACE?

>> HE BROUGHT BOTH.

>> AMEN.

>> THAT'S THE ANSWER.

>> ONCE AGAIN, THE CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE MAKES IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND. WELL, I HOPE THROUGH THIS PROGRAM WE'VE ENCOURAGED YOU TO HAVE GOOD FRIENDS. HAVE FRIENDS LIKE BROTHERS THAT STICK CLOSE IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY. ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH. THOSE THINGS ARE IN YOUR FRIEND'S BEST INTEREST. BE READY TO LISTEN TO THEM. CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS PROPERLY. AND PUT THEM IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD MUST ALWAYS COME FIRST. PUTTING THINGS FIRST, MAKE SURE THE BIBLE IS FIRST BEFORE YOUR FRIENDS. LISTEN TO WHAT IT SAYS. IF YOU NEED TO WATCH OR LISTEN TO OUR PROGRAM AGAIN, YOU CAN DO THAT. MAYBE YOU HAVE A QUESTION. WE COULD ANSWER IT ON THE PROGRAM. REMEMBER, WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY