

God's Calling Requirements Part 23

Friendship with God – Part 2

“13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” (John 15:13-15 KJV)

James, the writer of the book of James and the half brother of Jesus, emphasize about the friendship with God by condemning the friendship with the world: **“4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?” (James 4:4-5 KJV)** When you makes friends with people and compromise with them and condone their sins because you think one day you will need them, that way of thinking and behavior will make God very angry with you. If you do that then you are forfeiting the privileges to be friend with God.

Why we should not have friends from the world? Friends in the world are a source of troubles in your life. Events and situations from the Scriptures will show clearly why you should not have friends from the world, from among those who do not follow Christ. Here we will continue to describe from the Scriptures the events of wrong friendships.

G. Friends can cause Immorality of boy friend and girl friend: **“Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.” (Hosea 3:1)** **“a woman beloved of her friend”**, is the description of immorality between man and woman outside the marriage life. Immorality will come out of the worldly friendship between man and women, but the Bible speaks about marriage. Friendship used by the devil to introduce immoralities. It starts with just friendship but later on the devil would inject immorality to the relationship. The best thing we follow is that no man will meet with a woman and be together in privacy. Even for those who are called to marry they should not meet and be alone until the wedding day.

H. Friends will grumble and resent when they are faced with the truth: **“1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. 2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. 8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. 9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, 12 Saying,**

These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. 13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?” (Matthew 20:1-15 KJV) In the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, friends murmured against the goodman of the house when he faced them with the truth. When you hired friends for some work, you might be thinking they will be of help but then you will discover that they will grumble and demand from you more than what is ought to spend with others.

I. Friends will be used to introduce injustice: **“20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.” (Acts 12:20 KJV)** Herod here again persuaded to do another injustice in his leadership, giving undeserved favor to the people of Tyre because they made friendship with the king's chamberlain, and that worked out things for their behalf. Many people they make friends and they will rely on friends to receive underserved favor. Such things will promote injustice; in fact corruption and injustice in government are introduced through friendships.

J. Friends might betray you for the sake of money: **“50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.” (Matthew 26:50 KJV)** Judas came to Jesus and kissed Him and it was a kiss of betrayal to show to the Jews whom they needed to arrest. Jesus knew about what Judas was doing behind him, that is why cynically He called Judas friend! **“46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me. 47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. 49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.” (Matthew 26:46-49 KJV)** Although Jesus knew from where Judas came still he asked him. Jesus wanted to tell him that He knew that he received money to hand him over. People whom you trust as friends might behave in a very cheap way just for the sake of gaining some money out of their relationship with you.

K. Friends may entice you to sin against God and lead you to idol worship: **“6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; 7 Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; 8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: 9 But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. 10 And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.” (Deuteronomy 13:6-11)** Be careful of friends who will pull your leg and lead you to worship idols and sin against God. Satan will use such close people to introduce idol worship into your life and into the life of the

church. Therefore be discerning. Resist the devil, be faithful to the Lord, and deal properly with that wicked friend.

Some people they have what they called, 'My best friend', and such people will have more influence especially when they are used by the devil to introduce idol worship.

L. You can be blackmailed by a friend: “18 A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.” (Proverbs 17:18 KJV) If you don't guard your emotion, the love that you have toward a certain friend; such friend may use you and use your name to warranty him. He put you in the trouble and he escape out of it. Be very careful and don't guarantee friends because sure one day they will trouble you, “1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, 2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. 4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. 5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.” (Proverbs 6:1-5 KJV)

M. Friends may pay evil for good: “12 They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. 13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. 14 I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother. 15 But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:” (Psalm 35:12-15 KJV) David treated people as his friends and he was praying and fasting for them, but they betrayed him and paid him evil for the good that he did to them. “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.” (Psalm 41:9 KJV) Be careful not to make friends but instead have a relationship with people who has friendship with God.

N. Be careful of friends who do not fear God: Job received ill treatment from his unfaithful friends. There are certain times God had put people beside you and He expects from them to give you hand in trouble. “14 To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend.” (Job 6:14 KJV) But instead they will not do that. Put that in your mind and program yourself to fully trust God that He will be the one to take care of you in times of your troubles. Job said about his friends the following: “21 For now ye are nothing; ye see my casting down, and are afraid. 22 Did I say, Bring unto me? or, Give a reward for me of your substance? 23 Or, Deliver me from the enemy's hand? or, Redeem me from the hand of the mighty? 24 Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred. 25 How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove? 26 Do ye imagine to reprove words, and the speeches of one that is desperate, which are as wind? 27 Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend. 28 Now therefore be content, look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie. 29 Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness is in it. 30 Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?” (Job 6:21-30 KJV) Friends who are of no use in times of needs they called according to Job, “ye dig a pit for your friend.” (Verse 27) When Job was afflicted by Satan, his friends came supposed to comfort him, “11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the

Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.” (Job 2:11 KJV) But they troubled him and did not help him in his troubles. Therefore, the Lord rebuked them for such bad attitude: “7 And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.” (Job 42:7 KJV)

O. The friends of the evil man will agree with him and push him to do evil that will ultimately cause him destruction: The friends of Haman pushed him to destroy Mordecai and ultimately he was destroyed with what they suggested to him, “10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.” (Esther 5:10 KJV) “14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.” (Esther 5:14 KJV) God frustrated what Haman was doing against the Jewish and God honoured Mordecai. Then when Haman reported that to his friends, they did not advice him to repent. “13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.” (Esther 6:13 KJV) Finally Haman was hanged on the gallows that he prepared according to the suggestions of his own friends, “9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.” (Esther 7:9-10 KJV) If you live in a wicked way and keeps friends whom you think they will support your evil deeds, then just be sure that the days will come and God will use them to punish you.

People whom you keep as friends for the times of trouble, they will be the one to eat your flesh during the times of troubles. Their wrong advices to you will put you in troubles and that will be your punishment.

P. Those who trust on friends and not on God they will perish: God will cause ruin to those who are honoring friends and their words more than God and His Word. The prophet Jeremiah prophesied to king Zedekiah about that when he found him trusting and relying on friends to get delivered from God's judgment. He told him, “22 And, behold, all the women that are left in the king of Judah's house shall be brought forth to the king of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say, Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed against thee: thy feet are sunk in the mire, and they are turned away back.” (Jeremiah 38:22 KJV) Those who trust their friends more than God's Word, the Lord shall use their friends to deal treacherously with them. The following is what Jeremiah wrote about that: “2 She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.” (Lamentations 1:2) Jeremiah also prophesied destruction to Pashur the priest and to his friends who were around him supporting and agreeing with his wickedness, “1 Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD,

heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. 2 Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD. 3 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Pashur brought forth Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then said Jeremiah unto him, The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magorissabib. 4 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword. 5 Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon. 6 And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies.” (Jeremiah 20:1-6 KJV)

Q. The friends of the evil man will ultimately get executed for their sin in supporting the evil men: Friends who supported Haman conspiracy where ultimately got executed by the people of God. Another example of that, when Zimri used by God to execute judgment on the house of King Baasha, Zimri also executed all his friends, “8 In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years. 9 And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah. 10 And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead. 11 And it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he sat on his throne, that he slew all the house of Baasha: he left him not one that pissed against a wall, neither of his kinsfolks, nor of his friends. 12 Thus did Zimri destroy all the house of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake against Baasha by Jehu the prophet, 13 For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.” (1 Kings 16:8-13) Don't support evil doings or evil doers because sure the day will come and you will be punished for that.

My dear and beloved: “5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. 6 For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. 7 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.” (Micah 7:5-7 KJV) Do not be worry if you don't have friends because Jesus can go with you to any place and solve your problem. He may send you to certain people who will accomplish to you what you need, or He may go Himself and finish the matter to you and you don't need even to move.

God's calling for you today is to have and to keep your friendship with Him, and it will be done to you as you believe.

To fulfill our calling to God, we need to keep our friendship with God and move away from other friendships that we have in the world. “4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us

lusteth to envy?” (James 4:4-5 KJV) Our God is a jealous God and He does not want us to prefer people and relationships with them above our relationships with Him. In addition to that, our friendship with the world and to people would most likely expose us to dangers and we might get harmed. Therefore God's Word is keen to teach us to abide in our friendship with Him alone. Therefore, let us commit to the principle of the message that we heard today and let us implement what we learned in our lives as we commit ourselves to him in prayer.

Let us pray: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life.

Let us repent and renounce our sins. Confess your sins now to the Lord. Lord I repent of the following sins _____

Renounce the sin of being friendly with the world and trusting the people favor. Renounce the sin of supporting evil doers. Renounce the sin of giving favor to people who do not deserve it. Lord I understood well your word. I repent of being friendly with the world and trusting the people favor.

Lord I am coming back to you, I want you to be my only friend. Cleanse me and build me according to your Word and your will. Lord I pray that you will provide all my needs. Lord protect me and provide the favor that I need in my life to overcome some of my troubles. Lord I commit to you this problem _____ that I need you to go before me and to solve it.

Lord thank you for your Word to us in this message. Lord I pray for my brothers and Sisters who commit themselves to live and to do your Word, Lord give them more faith and trust in you. Lord provide all their needs and go before them and solve their problems. Lord Jesus give them more fruit of the Holy Spirit to be similar to you in character and attitude and that people will see you through their lives.

Lord we pray for us as a church, fill us Lord with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go and evangelize and make new disciples. Lord we pray that you will enable us to plant more Bible studies and more congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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