



Be My Friend

Note for 20251027 – James 5v13

1. Opening

Welcome to the Devotionals of The House of Bread. In the Word we read that we are to receive the Word of GOD by the Spirit, so I strongly urge you to pray before you receive the Devotional. Let Christ take the lead in your Spiritual Development.

Watch on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/DwWonHrVHHs>

Introduction

This morning, it is one of those mornings again where I read the focus verse, which happens to be the "*Verse of the Day*" again, look at the title I received and ask, "*How, LORD?*" But, it is the title, and we will discover why together.

2. Scripture Text

James 5:13 KJV

[13] Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

<https://bible.com/bible/1/jas.5.13.KJV>

3. Devotional Reflection

Last time, we looked at **James 1:2-3**, where we learn to count it for joy when we fall into diverse temptation, how the trying of our faith works patience. In the same way, today we look at how to deal with those things that we experience. It might be wise to add:

James 5:14-16 KJV

"[14] Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: [15] and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. [16] Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

<https://bible.com/bible/1/jas.5.14-16.KJV>

For those that have been around a while, you know my go to verse is Matthew 25:40, to keep in mind, that what we do is as good as doing it to the Lord.

People suffer in this world, my friends. Yes, even the wealthy, with high care to secure all their riches against those that would take it from them. The extension of today's verse does bring our common day practice into question, though. Do we make our faults known to one another, in other words, our ailments and shortcomings? Do we pray for one another, or run to the doctors first when we are afflicted? Where are the elders with their anointing oil, and where are the friends with faith?

It is not a secret that my family has been going through some afflicted times of late, and I have many friends that prayed in Faith. It is a common affliction for our time, and much of it. old afflictions, that come to most everyone at some point. Thanks be to the LORD that we are still here and standing strong, carried also by the prayers of the faithful friends in Christ.

Now I understand, and I am ashamed. You see, this weekend I have been struggling with this matter. Contemplating the matter that is best described by, "be my friend." It is quite disturbing when you discover yourself outside the circle of friends, at a time when you could have benefited from a support structure. I have that, then why was I struggling with it? For this message maybe? Besides, it was a light matter, and I had no real desire to be part of some things, and yet, I struggled with being excluded. But, I have good friends, why struggle with this then, to be where I probably would not even have wanted to go in any way? It is that old problem of "*be my friend*," and I know that we should rather be friends than expect friendship. As believers we should not be surprised when we are not popular, when we are excluded and often even hated. There is no surprise there at all. It speaks to a deeper problem then... Am I still self-centered after all these years? Has that old enemy crept in again, expecting from others that which we ought not to? I repent. We are called to serve, not to be served; that is a worldly viewpoint.

I know that sometimes the LORD will make me go through something so I will understand it, and that does not come without reflection. Have I somehow become immune to loneliness and exclusion at some point, to the point that I had to be reminded for compassion's sake? The worst thing is that I know that suffering this vulnerability in current circumstances is easy

relatable and even common society will excuse it, saying, "they are going through a lot." But, as believers we are held to a higher standard than the judgment of hopeless people.

Prayer:

"LORD, reveal to me why I had to write it here what is usually a private matter."

Yes, we do not grieve or mourn as the hopeless, for we have a Hope in Jesus Christ. In Christ we have a hope unto eternal life. We know this is temporary and the "Great Hope" is fixed in Him. Why, then these vulnerabilities still?

Do I feel entitled to consideration due to a common circumstance? I repent. It is far better to keep my faith in the LORD and stand in service to Him and those He loves. No more self-pity, we are not of this world though we are in it The LORD will give each their needs and in that I am needed too, to be on post, to be on guard, to do my part.

4. Closing Paragraph

No longer will I harbour the feeling of "be my friend," but instead, I will be a friend, because I have a friend in Jesus Christ eternally.

Selah, Shalom.

Prayer:

Oh, LORD Most High, in Christ I pray. Be with my family and our friends that are mourning at this moment. LORD, where I fail, supply You unto them the comfort of Your nearness. Hold their quacking hearts, their troubled minds and send your Angels to dry every tear. Place a hedge of protection around them, leaving them not vulnerable to the onslaught of the enemy. LORD, make me strong like a pillar for them to lean on, currently, give me clear sight, not to miss anything that requires my assistance in Your Name. My grief and burden, I lay at Your feet, that I may help carry theirs. Your will be done.

Amen

5. Resources

Playlists:

Over the last few months and years, we have compiled a few playlists on SoundCloud. Feel free to explore it, download it and share with friends and family.

Find playlists at: <https://soundcloud.com/houseofbread4u/sets>

NEW: Download Music



We have added the ability for you to download the music you heard in the devotionals. You can listen to the song before hitting the “Download” button to know it is the right song you wanted. For now, at least, these are free downloads, and my hope is that I can keep it free. Enjoy!

Link: <https://music.thehouseofbread.co.za/index.php>

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www.thehouseofbread.co.za

From 'Be My Friend' to Being a Friend

The "Be My Friend" Mindset



The Pain of Exclusion

A disturbing feeling of being outside a circle of friends, revealing a deeper spiritual issue.



A Self-Centered Viewpoint

This desire comes from expecting to be served, which is a worldly view.



The Root of Rejection

As a believer, when you are rejected for your faith, it is Christ they are rejecting, not you.



Transformation through Faith

A Call to Be a Friend

"We should rather be friends than expect friendship."



We Are Called to Serve

The Christian calling is not to be popular but to serve others in faith.



Find Strength in Christ

The ability to be a friend to all comes from having an eternal friend in Jesus Christ.