

**“Covenant Friendship:
The Spiritual Discipline of Walking Alongside”**

Message 8 in the series, “Awakening Grace”

Ruth 1:16-17 and I Samuel 18:1-4

TODAY'S MAIN IDEA:

People are _____ by the _____ they keep.

Our Human Condition: “I would like you more if you were _____.” ~ John Ortberg

The Goal of an Alongsider = to add _____ to another person’s life as well as to the _____

Qualities of an Alongsider

1. _____ – An invitational lifestyle that welcomes others to join you on the walk of faith
2. _____ – laboring in love with each other no matter what
3. _____ – of what God has in store for the other person
4. _____ – hearts are knit together
5. _____ – Listens deeply and intentionally
6. _____, but not _____ – committed to the other person’s best through mutual accountability
7. _____ - a willingness to trust and entrust
8. _____ – Holds the other person in sacred trust

Ruth 1:16-17 (NRSV)

But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die -- there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

I Samuel 18:1-4 (NRSV)

When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ² Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father’s house. ³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴ Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

ESTABLISHING RHYTHM:

1. Set an intentional scheduled time to “walk alongside” your close friend. Spiritual growth, as well as growth in friendships, happens best with intentionality.
2. Engage willingly in mutual confession and accountability.
3. Practice the discipline of listening more than speaking.

FOR GROW GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. Who are you learning from right now in your life? (e.g., books that you’re reading, podcasts, sermons)
2. Who knows you... really knows you?
3. Read Ruth 1:16-17 and I Samuel 18:1-3. Have you ever experienced that kind of friendship? Describe the qualities that made it a close relationship. How can you offer that to someone else?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 and Proverbs 27:17. How do these passages speak into your view of friendship?
5. As you’ve listened to the message or as you read the Scripture passages, what is God bringing to your mind and heart? What do you want to do about it?

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