

Chapter 31

With A Little Help From My Friends

BIBLE

Another angel came out from the temple which is in heaven. He also had a sharp sickle.¹ But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he puts forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.²

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few.³ Let us not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season, if we don't give up."⁴

"Beloved, don't imitate that which is evil, but that which is good. He who does good is of God. He who does evil hasn't seen God.⁵ Now who is he who will harm you, if you become imitators of that which is good?"⁶

"But don't forget to be doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.⁷ He has shown you, O man, what is good. What does Yahweh require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."⁸

He left them, and went out of the city to Bethany, and camped there.⁹ The consecrated things were six hundred head of cattle and three thousand sheep.¹⁰

COMMENTARY

¹ **Revelation 14:17** [*The other angel is Ringo, the "fourth angel"*]

² **Mark 4:29** Ringo, on being a Beatle: "I've never really done anything to create what has happened. It creates itself. I'm here because it happened. But I didn't do anything to make it happen apart from saying 'Yes'."

³ **Matthew 9:37**

⁴ **Galatians 6:9** Abraham Lincoln: "When I do good, I feel good. When I do bad, I feel bad. That's my religion."

⁵ **3 John 1:11** Sophocles: "To be doing good deeds is man's most glorious task."

⁶ **1 Peter 3:13** Shari Ariston: "Doing good holds the power to transform us on the inside, and then ripple out in ever expanding circles that positively impact the world at large."

⁷ **Hebrews 13:16** - Albert Einstein: "Only a life lived for others is worth living."

⁸ **Micah 6:8** Dalai Lama: "If we can refrain from harming others in our actions and words, we can start to give serious attention to actively doing good."

⁹ **Matthew 21:17**

¹⁰ **2 Chronicles 29:33**

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out.¹¹

When he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!”¹²

He made them a feast, and they ate and drank.¹³ There was great joy in that city.¹⁴ He sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.¹⁵ Smoke went up out of his nostrils. Consuming fire came out of his mouth. Coals were kindled by it.¹⁶

He says in his heart, “I shall not be shaken. For generations I shall have no trouble.”¹⁷ Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart; so does earnest counsel from a man’s friend.¹⁸

“Where there is no counsel, plans fail; but in a multitude of counselors they are established.”¹⁹

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”²⁰ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.²¹

“A man of many companions may be ruined, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”²²

¹¹ **John 10:3**

¹² **Luke 15:6**

¹³ **Genesis 26:30**

¹⁴ **Acts 8:8**

¹⁵ **2 Chronicles 28:4** “Incense And Peppermints,” was released in 1967 by the band Strawberry Alarm Clock (who chose their name as a tribute to the Beatles “Strawberry Fields Forever”). It is considered a psychedelic classic. The meaning of the title is unclear, though some have pointed out that pot smokers might use *incense* and *peppermints* to mask the smell of weed (in the room and on their breath) while they are in “the high places.”

¹⁶ **2 Samuel 22:9** “I get high with a little help from my friends,” Ringo shares in “With A Little Help From My Friends.”

¹⁷ **Psalms 10:6**

¹⁸ **Proverbs 27:9** “I’m gonna try with a little help from my friends,” Ringo declares in “With A Little Help From My Friends.”

¹⁹ **Proverbs 15:22** “I get by with a little help from my friends,” Ringo offers in “With A Little Help From My Friends.”

²⁰ **Proverbs 17:17** “I want somebody to love,” Ringo tells us in “With A Little Help From My Friends.”

²¹ **John 15:13** (Anon.) “A good friend is cheaper than therapy.”

²² **Proverbs 18:24** Plautus: “Nothing but heaven itself is better than a friend who is really a friend.”

“Don't let kindness and truth forsake you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart.²³ Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for building up as the need may be, that it may give grace to those who hear.²⁴

“Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend's countenance.²⁵ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls, and doesn't have another to lift him up.²⁶

“However, if you fulfill the royal law, according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well.²⁷ He who loves purity of heart and speaks gracefully is the king's friend!”²⁸

It came to pass, as he said these things, a certain woman out of the multitude lifted up her voice, and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts which nursed you!”²⁹ Let your father and your mother be glad! Let her who bore you rejoice!”³⁰

He said, “Call her.” When he had called her, she stood in the door.³¹ The young lady was very beautiful to look at, a virgin. No man had known her. She went down to the spring, filled her pitcher, and came up.³²

²³ **Proverbs 3:3** Albert Schweitzer: “In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.”

²⁴ **Ephesians 4:29** Chogyam Trungpa: “If there isn't a complete sense of openness and space, then communication between two people cannot happen. Period. It's that simple.”

²⁵ **Proverbs 27:17** (Anonymous) “A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.”

²⁶ **Ecclesiastes 4:10** In “With A Little Help From My Friends,” Ringo asks if anybody will be there to lift him up when he falls: “what would you do if I sing out of tune, would you stand up and walk out on me?”

²⁷ **James 2:8** “I just need someone to love,” Ringo tells us in “With A Little Help From My Friends.”

²⁸ **Proverbs 22:11** In “Yellow Submarine, Ringo has plenty of friends: “our friends are all aboard, and many more of them live next door.”

²⁹ **Luke 11:27**

³⁰ **Proverbs 23:25**

³¹ **2 Kings 4:15**

³² **Genesis 24:16**

She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has also set her table.³³ He drank of the wine and got drunk. He was uncovered within his tent.³⁴

He said, “Naked I came out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be the name of Yahweh.³⁵ Now therefore be pleased to look at me, for surely I shall not lie to your face.”³⁶

“How beautiful are your feet in sandals, prince's daughter! Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a skillful workman.³⁷ Come, let's take our fill of loving until the morning. Let's solace ourselves with loving!”³⁸

The light shall be dark in his tent. His lamp above him shall be put out.³⁹ He laid his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight, and glorified God.⁴⁰ He cried out, “Jesus, you son of David, have mercy on me!”⁴¹

On the next day they entered into Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and his near friends.⁴²

When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How did it go, my daughter?” She told her all that the man had done for her.⁴³

³³ **Proverbs 9:2**

³⁴ **Genesis 9:21**

³⁵ **Job 1:21**

³⁶ **Job 6:28**

³⁷ **Song of Solomon 7:1**

³⁸ **Proverbs 7:18** “I just want someone to love,” Ringo shares in “With A Little Help From My Friends.”

³⁹ **Job 18:6** “What do you see when you turn out the light? I can't tell you but I know it's mine,” Ringo reveals in “With A Little Help From My Friends.”

⁴⁰ **Luke 13:13** “Oh God,” she cried out.

⁴¹ **Luke 18:38** “With A Little Help From My Friends” was written by John and Paul specifically for Ringo to sing.

⁴² **Acts 10:24** Joe Cocker's version of “With A Little Help From My Friends” is considered by many to be the best cover version ever of a Beatle song. His dramatic eight minute performance of the song was a highlight of the Woodstock festival in 1969. Cocker's version was used as the theme song for the TV series *The WonderYears*.

⁴³ **Ruth 3:16** When Joe Cocker died in 2014, Paul issued this statement regarding his version of “With A Little Help From My Friends”: “It was just mind-blowing, totally turned the song into a soul anthem, and I was forever grateful for him for having done that.”