

“I call you friends”: Jesus (John 15:9-17)

John 15:13 “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

John 15:15 “I have called you friends, because I tell you everything I have heard from my Father.”

Great Biblical Models of Friendship

Jonathan & David

1 Samuel 18:1-5 “By the time David finished speaking with Saul, Jonathan’s life became bound up with David’s life; **he loved him as his very self**. Saul retained David on that day and did not allow him to return to his father’s house. **Jonathan and David made a covenant, because Jonathan loved him as his very self**. Jonathan took off the cloak he was wearing and handed it over to David, along with his military dress, even his sword, bow, and belt. David then carried out successfully every mission on which Saul sent him. So Saul put him in charge of his soldiers; this met with the approval of the whole army, even Saul’s officers.”

1 Samuel 19:1-7 “Saul discussed his intention to kill David with his son Jonathan and with all his servants. But Saul’s son **Jonathan, who was very fond of David**, told him: “My father Saul is trying to kill you. Therefore, please be on your guard tomorrow morning; stay out of sight and remain in hiding. I, however, will go out and stand beside my father in the countryside where you are, and will speak to him about you. If I learn anything, I will let you know.” **Jonathan then spoke well of David to his father Saul**, telling him: “The king should not harm his servant David. He has not harmed you, but has helped you very much by his deeds. When he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD won a great victory for all Israel, you were glad to see it. Why, then, should you become guilty of shedding innocent blood by killing David without cause?” Saul heeded Jonathan’s plea and swore, “As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed.” So Jonathan summoned David and repeated the whole conversation to him. He then brought David to Saul, and David served him as before.”

1 Samuel 20:12-17 “Jonathan said to David: “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, I will sound out my father about this time tomorrow. Whether he is well disposed toward David or not, I will inform you. Should it please my father to bring any harm upon you, may the LORD do thus to Jonathan and more, if I do not inform you of it and send you on your way in peace. May the LORD be with you even as he was with my father. Only this: if I am still alive, may you show me the kindness of the LORD. But if I die, never cut off your kindness from my house. And when the LORD cuts off all the enemies of David from the face of the land, the name of Jonathan must never be cut off from the family of David, or the LORD will make you answer for it.” **And in his love for David, Jonathan renewed his oath to him, because he loved him as he loved himself**.

1 Samuel 23:16-17 “Then Saul’s son, Jonathan, came down to David at Horesh and encouraged him in the LORD. He said to him: “Have no fear, my father Saul shall not lay a hand to you. You shall be king of Israel and I shall be second to you. Even my father Saul knows

this.” The **two of them made a covenant before the LORD** in Horesh, where David remained, while Jonathan returned to his home.

2 Samuel 1:26 ***“I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother! Most dear have you been to me; More wondrous your love to me than the love of women.”***

Moses & Aaron

Exodus 4:14-16 “The Lord said to Moses, “I know there is your brother, Aaron the Levite, who is a good speaker; ***even now he is on his way to meet you. When he sees you, he will truly be glad.*** You will speak to him and put the words in his mouth. ***I will assist both you and him*** in speaking and teach you both what you are to do. He will speak to the people for you: he will be your spokesman, and you will be as God to him.”

Exodus 4:29-30 “Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered all the elders of the Israelites. **Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses**, and he performed the signs before the people.” *Moses & Aaron Team Collaborating so Closely.*

Exodus 17:12 “When Moses' arms grew tired, Aaron and Hur brought a stone for him to sit on, while ***they stood beside him and held up his arms, holding them steady*** until the sun went down.”

Elijah & Elisha

1 Kings 19:19-21 ***“Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around Elisha. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah.*** “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?” So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then ***he set out to follow Elijah*** and became his servant.”

2 Kings 2:1-6 “When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, he and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, please. The LORD has sent me on to Bethel.” ***Elisha replied, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”*** So they went down to Bethel. The guild prophets who were in Bethel went out to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master from you?” He replied, “Yes, I know that. Be still.” Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here, please. The LORD has sent me on to Jericho.” ***Elisha replied, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”*** So they came to Jericho. The guild prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master from you?” He replied, “Yes, I know that. Be still.” Elijah said to him, “Stay here, please. The LORD has sent me on to the Jordan.” ***Elisha replied, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two went on together. (3X – Peter)***

Ruth & Naomi

Ruth 1:15-17 “See now,” Naomi said, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her god. You go back after your sister-in-law!” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to go back and abandon you! Wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your

people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die I will die, and there be buried.”

Great Friends of God

Abraham

2 Chronicles 20:7 Jehoshaphat’s Prayer “ Was it not you, our God, who dispossessed the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and gave it forever to the descendants of **Abraham, your friend?**”

Isaiah 41:8 “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, offspring of **Abraham my friend—**“

James 2:23 “Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness-(Gen 15:6)” and **he was called “the friend of God.”**

David

Acts 13:22 “Then he removed Saul and raised up David as their king; of him he testified, ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, **a man after my own heart**; he will carry out my every wish.’

1 Samuel 13:14 “The LORD has sought out **a man after his own heart** to appoint as ruler over his people because you did not observe what the LORD commanded you.”

Psalms 78:72 “He shepherded them **with a pure heart**”

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.” John 15:14

Commandments of Jesus

John 13:34 “I give you a new commandment: love one another. **As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.**”

John 15: 12 “This is my commandment: **love one another as I love you.**”

Matthew 22:36-39 “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall **love the Lord, your God, with all your heart**, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**”

The Sacrificial Love Eucharist Command of Mt 26:26–29; Mk 14:22–24, Luke 22:19

“Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you; **do this in memory of me.**”

Service of Others & Feet Washing Command of John 14

John 14:1 “He loved his own in the world and he **loved them to the end.**”

John 14:14-15 “If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that **as I have done for you, you should also do.**”

Command to Show Mercy to Others & to not sin

Luke 10:36-37 “Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?” He answered, “The one who **treated him with mercy.**” Jesus said to him, “**Go and do likewise.**”

John 8:11 “Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”

Jesus Commandments that parallel Moses’ (God through Moses) Matthew 5 & 6

The 'But I say to you.....' Commands of Jesus form Sermon on Mount

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' ***But I say to you***, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment,"

Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ***But I say to you***, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Matthew 5:31-32 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.' ***But I say to you***, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

Matthew 5:33-35 "Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.' ***But I say to you***, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King."

Matthew 5:38-39 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ***But I say to you***, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on [your] right cheek, turn the other one to him as well."

Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ***But I say to you***, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 28:19-20 "***Go, therefore, and make disciples*** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age"

Jesus' Three commands of Love for Peter "Feed, Tend, Feed"

John 21:15-17 "When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "***Feed*** my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "***Tend*** my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." [Jesus] said to him, "***Feed*** my sheep."

And finally, it is said that Jesus commanded twenty-two times in the gospels, "Follow Me"!

Gospel of Matthew 7 times

Matthew 4:19 "And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 8:22 "Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

Matthew 9:9 "Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him."

Matthew 10:38 "whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

Matthew 16:24 "Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Matthew 19:21 "Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Matthew 19:28 "Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Gospel of Mark 4 times

Mark 1:17 " Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Mark 2:14 "as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

Mark 8:34 "And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Mark 10:2 "Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Gospel of Luke 4 times

Luke 5:27 "After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me."

Luke 9:23 "Jesus said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Luke 9:59 "To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

Luke 18:22 "When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have & give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Gospel of John 7 times

John 1:43 "The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

John 8:12 "Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

John 12:26 "If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."

John 13:36 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward."

John 21:19 "This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God. And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

John 21:22 "Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"