

Day 3 – Friendship Requests

Scripture: *"Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."*
— **Proverbs 13:20**

Devotional

If you've ever been on social media, you've probably received a notification that says:

"You have a new friend request."

Years ago, friendship meant spending time together, sharing meals, talking for hours, and showing up when life got hard.

Today, friendship can be reduced to a button.

Accept.

Ignore.

Delete.

You can have 2,000 Facebook friends and still feel completely alone.

Why?

Because there's a difference between having **connections** and having **relationships**.

A connection knows your profile picture.

A true friend knows your heart.

Our culture has redefined friendship. We measure it by followers, likes, streaks, comments, and tags. But God measures friendship very differently.

He isn't interested in how many people know your name.

He's interested in who is shaping your character.

The people you spend the most time with will influence the person you become.

It's impossible not to be affected by the voices you allow into your life.

Think about it.

If your closest friends constantly complain, you'll eventually complain.

If they gossip, you'll become comfortable gossiping.

If they chase money above everything else, you'll begin believing possessions equal success.

If they encourage compromise, your standards will slowly begin to shift.

But the opposite is also true.

When you surround yourself with people who love Jesus...

Your faith grows.

Your courage grows.

Your joy grows.

Your wisdom grows.

That's why Proverbs says, *"Walk with the wise and become wise."*

Notice it doesn't say you'll simply **know** wise people.

It says you'll **walk** with them.

Walking implies closeness.

Consistency.

Direction.

Shared purpose.

The people you're walking beside are helping determine where you're going.

That's why choosing your friends is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make.

Someone once said,

"Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future."

There is a lot of truth in that statement.

You don't drift toward godliness by accident.

You drift toward the people who influence you most.

Jesus understood the importance of relationships.

Crowds followed Him everywhere He went.

But not everyone had the same level of access to His life.

He preached to thousands.

He disciplined twelve.

He shared His deepest moments with three—Peter, James, and John.

Even Jesus had boundaries.

That's important because many of us believe saying "yes" to everyone somehow makes us more loving.

It doesn't.

Healthy boundaries aren't unloving.

They're wise.

Not everyone should have unlimited access to your heart.

Some people inspire your faith.

Others constantly drain it.

Some celebrate your growth.

Others resent it.

Some encourage your calling.

Others try to convince you to settle.

One of the greatest gifts you can give yourself is learning the difference.

There's another friendship we sometimes overlook.

The friendship Jesus offers us.

In John 15:15, Jesus tells His disciples:

"I no longer call you servants... Instead, I have called you friends."

Think about that.

The Creator of the universe doesn't simply tolerate you.

He invites you into friendship.

Unlike earthly friendships, Jesus never cancels plans because He's too busy.

He never leaves your messages unanswered.

He never forgets your birthday.

He never betrays your confidence.

He never talks behind your back.

He never disappears when life gets difficult.

In fact, He promises exactly the opposite.

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Earthly friendships are gifts from God.

But they were never designed to replace God.

When Jesus becomes your closest friend, every other friendship becomes healthier because you stop expecting people to carry responsibilities only God can carry.

You stop looking for perfection in imperfect people.

You stop demanding that friends always understand you.

You stop expecting them to meet every emotional need.

Instead, you appreciate them for the blessing they are while depending on Christ for what only He can provide.

As your relationship with Jesus deepens, you'll begin attracting healthier friendships.

Why?

Because like-minded people naturally find one another.

Your conversations change.

Your priorities change.

Your desires change.

And suddenly, the friendships that once seemed essential no longer fit the direction God is leading you.

That isn't something to fear.

It's something to celebrate.

God never removes something without making room for something better.

Maybe today isn't about finding more friends.

Maybe it's about becoming the kind of friend someone else needs.

Someone who listens.

Someone who encourages.

Someone who prays.

Someone who points people toward Jesus instead of toward themselves.

The world has enough acquaintances.

It desperately needs more Christ-centered friends.

Reflection Questions

- Who has the greatest influence over my thoughts, attitudes, and decisions?
- Are my closest friendships pulling me closer to Christ or further away from Him?
- Am I expecting friends to meet needs that only God can satisfy?
- What kind of friend am I becoming?

Prayer

Father, thank You for creating us to live in community. Help me choose friendships that strengthen my faith and reflect Your love. Give me wisdom to recognize relationships that encourage spiritual growth and courage to establish healthy boundaries where needed. Most of all, thank You for calling me Your friend. Help me grow closer to You every day so I can become the kind of friend who encourages, serves, forgives, and points others to Christ. Let my life reflect Your love in every relationship. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Take a moment to think about your five closest friends.

Ask yourself:

- Do they encourage my walk with Christ?
- Do they challenge me to become a better person?
- Do I leave conversations with them feeling stronger or spiritually drained?

Then do one intentional act of friendship today. Send an encouraging text, make a phone call, pray for someone by name, or invite a friend to join you in reading God's Word this week.

Don't just wait for a friendship request.

Be the friend Jesus has called you to be.

Today's Truth

Real friendship isn't measured by followers or friend requests. It's measured by faithfulness. And the greatest Friend you'll ever have is Jesus Christ—the One who will never leave, never fail, and never stop loving you.