

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS
by Lester J. Start
Undated

John 4: 1- 30.

“A friend is one who dislikes the same people you do.”

Introduction.

A. The goal which every man seeks in life is happiness, says Aristotle; we cannot find happiness by ourselves, however - it is a quality of life dependent upon our relationships with others, and with the world about us. Fear and loneliness.

1. Psychologists tell us that an indispensable requirement for happiness is a feeling of recognition, of being respected, accepted, and loved by our fellows; thus we feel a need for making friends and seek to know how to win friends.

a. The common concern of men toward this question is attested to by the popularity of “success” and “personality” books; (i.e.) “How to Win Friends and Influence People,” etc.

personality tests in magazines concern of education world picture

B. The best instructions on making friends are to be found in the records of the life and teachings of Jesus, for He is the friend of all mankind, the man who has won over the most stubborn of enemies.

1. He gives us the clues to the fine art of making friends in the story of the Samaritan woman at the well; by watching him win a new friend, we learn how it is done.

a. Friends are not made immediately; the story shows us that with Jesus, as with us, winning a friend takes some time and effort.

I. The woman’s attitude changed from a flippant mood (so typical of oppressed peoples) to one of respect and open loyalty.

ia. Move first (elevator - more than halfway - Jesus - ind - states).

I. There are many hints to be found in the story, but one of the most significant is that Jesus humbled himself by putting himself in a position to be helped when he said, “Give me to drink,” (v7) and in so doing, he made the first overture. Asked for something

A. We are reluctant to do this, because we hate to put ourselves at the mercy of others, or under obligation.

But Jesus shows us that there is a certain grace of receptivity and dependence, which is essential to making friends.

Suspicion of strangers

1. The independent man “who doesn’t owe anyone anything” (or let them owe him) walks alone; the man who puts himself under obligations; letting others help him, is the one who has friends.
2. We distrust and fear the strong independent, but instinctively warm to the one who seeks help.
3. In a certain sense it is more blessed to receive than to give, for we need the spirit of dependence.

” Give and take”

II. Jesus made friends by his eagerness to help others. (vv10,14) offered something

A. By offering the woman the living water, he showed his willingness to be of service to others.

1. A sincere interest in welfare of others is perhaps the strongest basis for friendship.
 - a. Jesus himself lives on as the Friend of man, because His life was devoted to helping others; all who know Him love Him because of His love to them (we love because He first loved us).
 - b. The great friends of mankind in history are those who have expressed this spirit of helpfulness.

B. A person can endure all kinds of hardship if only he feels he is not alone, if he feels a helping hand.

1. A kindly interest helps more than we think. Counseling
2. The suicide is the man who feels absolutely alone.

C. We must help others, and thus win friends, because we are not sufficient unto ourselves; we need the help of others and must help in return - this is the basis for friendship between individuals, nations, and races. Reciprocity bee and flower (I and II

III. Jesus was honest and sincere in his relationships and inspired the same qualities in others. (v17, 24) tip hat shake hands

A. It has been said that love, the basis for true friendship, implies a willingness to be completely open, letting one’s innermost feelings be open to be hurt, but trusting that these cherished feelings will not be violated.

1. This is the kind of openness Jesus practiced and inspired and others; the woman was not afraid to be honest and confessed she had no husband, for she sensed that Jesus would not blame her, but try to help her.

2. So often we live in little hard shells, fearing to let people know us as we really are; and then we wonder why we have no friends when we do not let people know us honestly.

3. Opening our hearts sincerely leaves us open to be hurt, but this is the only way to make friends - through trust.

B. Jesus shows us that this is the only basis for making friends with God, for “they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

C. A correlative principle is indicated in v 27, where we read that Jesus’ disciples, although amazed at His talking with the Samaritan, did not question or criticize Him, but trusted that He was doing the right thing. Russia

1. Honesty and sincerity in all our relationships are essential if we are to make friends; the trust which is the cement of friendship can hold on no other basis. international scene

IV. A final clue to the fine art of making friends is seen in the way Jesus inspired the woman to bear testimony to what she had learned, and share with others the good news of the Messiah. (vv 28, 29).

A. A man who makes friends is the one who shares with others the good things he has received.

1. Selfishness in this regard is a curse to friendship.

a. The great men of the ages whom we think of as our friends are not those who kept the good things of life to themselves, but those who shared: the myth of Midas shows the curse of selfishness; the generosity of Augustine shows the way of friendship.

2. We are sometimes tempted to keep good things to ourselves, lest someone harshly treat the thing we value, but without the trust which gives us the willingness to share, we have no basis for coming close to another life.

a. There is a natural instinct in man to share the good things of life; we enjoy a sunset or a concert more if we are not alone. [Illustrate Heaven and Hell].

Conclusion: This all seems to suggest that the truest basis for friendship is the mutual sharing of God’s free gifts to man in cooperative appreciation.

A. We let others help us, develop the grace of receptivity and we prepare the groundwork for friendship.

B. We help others and lend a helping hand to someone in need and we build upon this friendship.

C. Through honesty and sincerity we make possible the trust which is the essential dynamic for it.

D. Through mutual sharing of what each has received from God with one's fellows, we give the ultimate expression of true friendship, which is only the popular way of expressing man's true relationship to God and his fellow men, as revealed in the life of Jesus.

E. The fruit of this relationship is the happiness which all men seek, but can find only when they live in the right relationship to God and man.

Your first three are excellent. I feel four is a consequence of the friendship experience rather than the way to make friends.

Illustrate - man in mist - tree of life