

**August 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

**Title: The Importance Having Friends**

**Introduction:** “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NRSV

The writer of Ecclesiastes wants us to understand that Friendship is a good investment. When the writer says in verse 9, “Two are better than one, because they have good reward for their toil” the words “good reward” can also be translated “good return” because it means dividends paid on a wise investment.

The very best investment you will ever make in life will not be a financial one, but rather the investment made in relationships.

Two things that people are devoted to:

1. Some people constantly try to get more or better things.
2. Some people focus on building relationships, trying to make friends and to be a friend. The first half of Proverbs 18:24 says, “A man who has friends must himself be friendly...”

Two characteristics of a real friend:

1. A Real Friend Helps You When You Are Down.

“For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.” (V.10)

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. “ (Proverbs 17:17 NIV)

2. Real Friends stay connected.

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.” (John15:5-6 NLT)

Themes that stand out:

1. Only a connection to the Vine gives life.
2. Only connected to the Vine can you produce fruit.



**Conclusion:**

1. Real friends help you when you are down.
2. Real friends stay connected to each other.