

"You are My friends "

April 23, 2016

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John 15:11-17

- "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. ¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ "**You are My friends** if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ "**No longer do I call you servants,** for a servant does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you friends,** for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷ "These things I command you, that you love one another.

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- **What kind of friendship Jesus had in mind when he called us friends?**

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The rabbis of the Talmudic and medieval periods

- Describe friendship as a relationship where at the center of this model is a shared pursuit of holiness, primarily through the study of the Holy Book.
- **One is not even to part from one's friend without exchanging words of The Book. (Torah)**

(BT Berakhot 31a).

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“HAVRUTA” relationship

- Is fueled by passionate energy and mutual concern for each other’s spiritual wellbeing.

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“Havruta” Friendship Example

- According to Rabbinic tradition, friendship between David and Jonathan and story reported in **1 Samuel 23:15-18** is one of the best examples of the HARVUTA FREINDSHIPS in the Old Testament!

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NKJV 1 Samuel 23:14-16

- ¹⁴ And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand. ¹⁵ So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest. ¹⁶ Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

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NIV 1 Samuel 23:14-16

- ¹⁴ David stayed in the desert strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands. ¹⁵ While David was at **Horesh** in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. ¹⁶ And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at **Horesh** and helped him find strength in God.

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Horesh

- **Horesh** – place of trouble –
- Idiom: **“not out of the woods”**
– being in the woods – means= trouble!

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1 Samuel 23:14-16

- **Lesson #1.** The deepest saints and the strongest leaders need Christian friend to strengthen their hands in God.
- **Lesson #2:** strengthening someone’s hand in God involves conscious effort. It is intentional.
- **Lesson #3** the strength we are to give each other is strength in God, not in ourselves.

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Havruta

- *“Christ’s methods alone will give true success in reaching the people. **The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.”*** (MH 143.)

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1 Samuel 23:16

- ¹⁶ Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. (NKJV)

Hebrew:

16. Yehownathan Sha'uwl ben yalak David choresh

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1 Samuel 23:16

16. **Yehownathan Sha'uwI ben yalak David choresh**

- **Yehownathan** = Jonathan = "Jehovah has given"
- **Sha'uwI** = Saul or Shaul = "desired"
- **ben** = son
- **yalak** = to come, to go
- **David** = David = "beloved"
- **choresh** = woods, forest, or **place of trouble.**

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1 Samuel 23:16

- ¹⁶ Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. (NKJV)
- **"Jehovah has given desired son to the beloved to come to horesh = (place of trouble) to strengthen his hand in God."**
- NKJ **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

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