

## "A Friend Loveth at All Times"

**Proverbs 17:17**

### **Introduction**

One thing that never changes is the NEED for Friendship:  
Prov. 17:17 - "A FRIEND loveth at all times....."

How would YOU evaluate YOURSELF as a Friend???  
There is a story in the Word of God about Friendship - allow me to share.

### **The Healing of the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)**

READ - Mark 2:1-12

In this story we find 3 Kinds of Friends:

The Helpless One  
The Helping Ones  
The Healing One

- 1. The Helpless One** – man who sick of the palsy - completely paralyzed; unable to help himself; dependent upon others. There will always be those who are less fortunate than YOU. There will always be those who must depend upon others. There will always be choices to make concerning such people.
- 2. The Helping Ones** - four (4) friends who helped their paralyzed friend..

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." **Prov. 18:24**

"I went out to FIND a Friend,  
But could not FIND one there.  
I went out to BE a Friend,  
And Friends were Everywhere!"

These four provide us an example of True Friendship –

**a. Their Motive** - No selfishness. They were simply concerned; compassionate; & caring!

**b. Their Method** - Required a Joint-Effort; Cooperation; No Jealousy - "Each Man Had a CORNER to Bear" - If any of the four (4) failed to do his part, the job would not get done.

**c. Their Manner** - They were Persistent; Overcame Obstacles; Did not give up!  
It has been said, "Some people make enemies instead of friends because it is less trouble."

- 3. The Healing One** - The Lord Jesus Christ  
I would not be much of a friend to you if I did not take one more opportunity to tell you about the greatest Friend of All - Jesus Christ.

Like the four Helping Ones who bore their Helpless friend, Jesus Bore YOUR Sins and Mine upon Calvary's Cross!

**His Motive** was simple: He Loves YOU & me.

**His Method** was that of cooperation with the Father as He "Bore our sins"

**His Manner** was the same as the four Helping Ones - He did not allow Satan's attempts to deter Him from accomplishing His task! He drank of the bitter Cup and "for the glory set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame!"

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"Greater Love hath no man than this - that a man lay down His life for his friend!" - **John 15:13**

"You can give without loving, But you can't love without giving!"