

## **It's A Great Day in the Kingdom – September 18, 2020**

Have you ever received help or encouragement from a friend? Friendship is mentioned many times in our Holy Scripture. Friends are one of the many Blessings from our Heavenly Father. God created us as social creatures. We are drawn in by our need for different levels of social interaction. Much like our DNA, our needs differ greatly, when comes to number and level of friends.

Do you remember a contemporary music artist from the 90's and early 2000's by the name of Michael W. Smith. He wrote a song that I heard much more often than I would have liked. However, one line in this song did speak to me. It went, "...a friend will not say never..."

As I had been the pastor of Aledo Methodist for about three weeks, my email was hijacked. People digitally linked to me to those I had previously contacted by an exploitive email, full of very manipulative and desperate language. The email asked for of course, money. As my initial reaction was not that I had been blessed but victimized, the realization came that I was not the victim. Kind and genuine people had stepped out to help me. In the end, I had received a Blessing and they had been the victims, because they had sent their personal income to aid who they perceived was me.

My emotions quickly evolved from anger to simply being grateful to God for the Blessing of such genuine people in my life. The word "Friend" possesses different meanings, just like we are all created as various beings. My definition of friend is someone who is truly there when you need them. You may not be in social engagements with them or see them very often, but you know they are there for you.

My heart was humbled by this experience, to say the least. These people barely knew me, yet were risking finances to help me. They reacted without hesitation. They reacted as Brothers and Sisters, in Christ. Someone had portrayed me in a situation of adversity and they were being the hands and feet of Jesus. Proverbs 17:17 tells us, "A friend loves at all times, And kinsfolk are born to share adversity." These precious people showed me who they really are in Christ. I'll forever be humbled by their generosity in action, as witnesses to The Gospel of Jesus Christ. What is a true friend? A friend is a Blessing from God.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for friends who walk among us, as Blessings from You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Have A Blessed Week

Pastor Joel

(Matthew 28!!!)