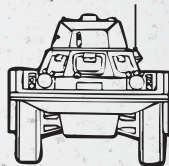


THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP



WARM UP

1 Chronicles 24-27 gives us a list of people with very important positions who surrounded King David e.g. Eleazar the priest; Asaph the prophet;

Heman the seer; Joab, commander of the king's army; Zetham who was in charge of the treasures; Jehiel, tutor of the king's sons; Ahithophel, the king's counsellor. It's King David's "who's who" list.

Suddenly, chapter 27:33 introduces us to Hushai - no title, no position, no portfolio. He is simply described as "Hushai was the king's friend".

King David wanted that recorded because he regarded Hushai's friendship as just as important, if not even more important, than all the other positions. The best position is to be a real friend.



READ Daniel 2:1-49



QUESTIONS

1. Who has helped you overcome trials and tribulations?

BACKGROUND

Daniel 2 is the story of four friends who stood up together against enemy fire and together overcame a deadly situation. The friendship of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is something which God wants Christian men to learn from and live by. It is interesting to note that in just six short verses, God uses the phrase "his friends" three times (v 13, 17 & 18).

CONSIDER THIS

Jim Rohn, the self-made millionaire and successful author, says "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with". The world-renowned marine artist Wyland teaches that there are two types of people: anchors and motors. "Lose the anchors and get with the motors!" he says. Why? Because the motors are going somewhere and having more fun. The anchors will just drag you down.

2. Have you had to deal with difficult people? How did you cope? Did you have a positive influence on them?

3. God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." (Genesis 1:18) It is God's will for us to cultivate meaningful relationships with others. Is there a friendship that has changed your life?



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

Because I want to grow spiritually, I choose to build godly friendships with and be accountable to these men who can sharpen me:

I will contact and thank the following people who have helped me become who I am today:

WRAP UP

How can we forgive ourselves? Always use things, but love people. Never love things and use people! We must be careful not to take people for granted, lest they feel used and abused. Be a loyal friend. Pray for God's blessing on each other. Pray also for God to link you with friends who can sharpen you and help you go to the next level spiritually.