

Moments of Inspiration

Let it Go by Ethan Herbert

He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

Proverbs 17:9

Solomon is very clear in his collection of proverbs that he believes in the power of friendship. He even points out that there are friends that stick closer than brothers. Jesus agrees as he uses the term friend to describe his relationship with believers, from Abraham in the Old Testament to the disciples in the New. In this passage, though, Solomon warns that the bond of true friendship is not unbreakable.

We are told to seek love by covering transgressions. This means that in cases where we are hurt or offended by our friends, we are to resist the urge to unnecessarily draw the attention of others to it. In fact, we are to move on as quickly as is healthy. To make the mistake of publicizing the hurts of friends unnecessarily is to run the risk of destroying friendships. Micah paused his proclamations of judgement on Israel to praise God for being a God who does not hang on to wrongs done to Him but pardons iniquity and delights in mercy (Micah 7: 18&19). Jesus is a clear example of the innocent suffering at the hands of his friends when Peter denied Him. He rose again unwilling to rehash or gossip the offences of the past but focused instead on reinstating

Peter to the position to which He had called him – a decision that is still a blessing to Christians everywhere. We must, like Jesus, refrain from unnecessarily drawing attention to the wrongs of others but instead seek to protect their reputations and our friendships.

Now to the disclaimer. This does not mean that Jesus or Solomon (for that matter) support silently standing while habitual misdeeds are done to us. True friendship requires that we address offences in love and seek to disrupt harmful patterns. In fact, we may need to extend issues beyond our circle of friendship when they prove to be too difficult for us. God himself has never hesitated to have his prophets publicize the wickedness of Israel, His remnant (Micah 6 does come *before* Micah 7). This he did without animosity, though, and always with a view to constructively rebuild his relationships with men. May God give us wisdom and discipline to let things go.

Questions to Ponder: Is your need to publicize hurts destroying your relationships? Are you refusing to handle issues that need some airtime?

