

NOT EASILY BROKEN: BE A FRIEND

Scriptures used: [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#) and [John 15:12-14 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon continued with the series “Not Easily Broken.” Our church - our unique congregation - is a blessing and a resource to connect to others. The key message today is an exhortation to be a **good** friend to others, in the same way Jesus is a great friend to us. Jesus truly models the most noble elements of friendship, and the transformative role friendship can have in our lives.

KEY POINTS

1. Friendship should be **elevated**. This is the kind of friendship where we get picked up when we fall. Jesus commands us to “Be a friend to one another in the same way I was a friend to you” (see [John 15:12-14 \(NLT\)](#)) Jesus is here to help us in every aspect of our lives. We should do the same for others. Friendship anchors us in relationships, and carries us through tough times. It is a vital, underlying component of exceptional relationships. Love, especially agape love in friendship, is an unconditional concern for the well-being of others.
2. When Dr. King was asked about his response to violence in Selma, he replied that he would call for help from friends far and wide – help from everyone to bear the burden of injustice and violent terror. This is how the beautiful March to Montgomery came about. Friendship was unleashed for solidarity and positive change.
3. Friendship is about **faithfulness** - showing up for others. Dr King went to jail 29 times. He never got used to it, as the isolation frightened him. “Acts of civil disobedience were acts of love too”, said a recent biographer of Dr. King, who described the desire of Dr. King’s friend, Ralph Abernathy, to be incarcerated with Dr. King in order to support him. In the same way, Dr. King’s wife, Coretta Scott King, steadfastly remained with Dr. King in the struggle for civil rights, even when their house was firebombed and their family was threatened. In the wake of such attacks, she shared that her relationship with God had grown more real. She made peace with the fact that even if there was ultimate sacrifice on her part or her husband’s part to bring about the Kingdom of God, there is no nobler cause. We cannot be self-centered, self-absorbed, and also be good friends.
4. [Ephesians 4:15 \(NLT\)](#) reminds us that we must **speak the truth in love**, without the need to control the outcome. This is how we release power to change the world: Jesus’ sacrifice ensured forgiveness for us. Yes, we live in a broken world, and we are surrounded by pain and suffering. But we shall overcome! Not because of politics, but because Jesus’ redemptive friendship can transform humanity. When faith and power are released in us, there is the possibility for a new world.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Who are the closest friends in your life? What makes them good friends to you? What makes you a good friend to them? What is the difference that their friendship makes in your life?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [John 15:12-14 \(NLT\)](#). What are some specific ways that Jesus loves us that are possible for us to emulate in the way we engage with those around us? Are there ways that God’s love and friendship for us actually gives us the power and capability to be better friends to those around us? Consider the illustrations that P. Hurmon shared from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement, where part of the power of social change came from the power of faith and friendship. Have you seen the transforming power of friendship in your life? What could it look like to lean more into the power of friendship to transform?
- 3) **DO** - Think about one friend that God has placed in your life, and do something concrete this week as a way of being grateful for them and not taking them for granted, whether reaching out to them, sending them a small gift, or taking an action to be a good friend to them. Also, consider if there is someone that you don’t know as well that God has placed in your life that needs a friend, that God might be calling you to be a friend to. Take a concrete action of friendship toward that person. Join us next Sunday as we continue our series, “Not Easily Broken”!