

Presence: Being with Friends

Matthew 16:13-28



1. Jesus set firm boundaries with Peter to escape the temptation to avoid the cross.

Jesus, instead, would remain committed to his Father's plan to save all people from their sin. 16:21-23



Jesus understood what
the Father had sent him
to accomplish: his
death and resurrection
would achieve
salvation for humanity.

16:21

Simon Peter is concerned for Jesus, his friend, and wants him to accomplish his mission in a way that will not lead to the cross. 16:22

Jesus rebukes Peter for three reasons: Peter is a snare or stumbling block to Jesus, Peter does not have the things of God in mind, and Peter is making decisions based on his limited, understanding.

16:23

3 Types of Bad (Toxic) Friends:

1. **Fakers**: the entire friendship is based on their personal gain.
2. **Users**: have a strong tendency to gravitate toward people who are more than often willing to help them and/or can't say no.
3. **The Unaware**: sometimes friends will say and do things without thinking. They might treat others badly because they don't have the skills or understanding to do any different. Not malicious, just ignorant, insensitive, and unaware.

My friends are not to blame
for leading me astray. I am to
blame for allowing them.

Have I established firm
boundaries that will keep me
focused on God's presence
and purposes in my life?

2. Jesus didn't abandon his friends to protect himself, but stayed connected to help them understand his sacrificial mission and its implications for their own lives.

16:24-28



Jesus urgently and passionately explains how his life, and the lives of his followers, would have to conform to the reality of the cross. Self-sacrifice is necessary in a Christ-like life. 16:24-25

Jesus acknowledges that it is possible to live in this world experiencing everything this world has to offer without conforming to the cross. The catch is that such a self-centered life is lived at the expense of one's soul in this life and the next. 16:26-27

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

John 15:12-13

Do I have the courage
to lay down my life and
love my friends with the
sacrificial love of Jesus
Christ?

What firm boundaries
do you need to
establish with your
friends that will keep
you focused on God's
presence and
purposes in your
life?



How can you lay down
your life and love your
friends with the
sacrificial love of
Jesus Christ? Will you
call them to do the
same?

