

A Faithful Friend

Book of Sirach 6:5-17

*“A kind mouth multiplies friends,
and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings.*

*Let your acquaintances be many,
but one in a thousand your confidant.*

*When you gain a friend, first test him,
and be not too ready to trust him*

*For one sort of friend is a friend when it suits him,
but he will not be with you in time of distress.*

*Another is a friend who becomes an enemy,
and tells of the quarrel to your shame.*

*Another is a friend, a boon companion,
who will not be with you when sorrow comes.*

*When things go well, he is your other self,
and lords it over your servants;*

*But if you are brought low,
he turns against you and avoids meeting you.*

*Keep away from your enemies;
be on your guard with your friends.*

*A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;
he who finds one finds a treasure.*

*A faithful friend is beyond price,
no sum can balance his worth.*

*A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy,
such as he who fears God finds;*

*For he who fears God behaves accordingly,
and his friend will be like himself.”*