

True Community

together to create

True Community - Part 2 “Leave No Man Behind” Pastor Dave Patterson 8-19-18

Key verses for the series:

Galatians 5:25-26 (Voice)

Now since we have chosen to walk with the Spirit, let’s keep each step in perfect sync with God’s Spirit. This will happen when we set aside our self-interests *and work together to create true community* instead of a culture consumed by provocation, *pride*, and envy.

Philippians 2:2-4 (TPT)

So I’m asking you, my friends, that you be joined together in perfect unity—with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy.

Be free from pride-filled opinions, *for they will only harm your cherished unity*. Don’t allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves. Abandon every display of selfishness. Possess a greater concern for what matters to others instead of your own interests.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can help him up. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

1 Samuel 23:15-17

So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph (near Horesh) in a forest.

Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to find David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father will not find you. You will be king over Israel... and I will be next to you,



“ Q: so David is on the run . . . he ascends from the area of Engedi . . .



“Jonathan goes into these woods”

1. **Jonathan went after him / be intentional in not leaving anyone behind**
2. **Jonathan spoke life over David’s future** *“Do not fear, you will be King over Israel”*
3. **Jonathan preferred David above himself** *“I will be next to you”*

Luke 22:31-32 (TPT)

“Peter, my dear friend, listen to what I’m about to tell you. Satan has demanded to come and sift you like wheat and test your faith. But I have prayed for you, Peter, that you would stay faithful to me no matter what comes. Remember this: **after you have turned back to me and have been restored**, make it your life mission to strengthen the faith of your brothers.”

APPLICATION:

- 1. Commit to the relationship and true community before, during and after the crisis**
- 2. Pursue the one who has gone into isolation**
- 3. Speak life and invite them back into community**

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What is something you've lost and have never been able to find?
2. Read Philippians 2:2-4 (above) together. True community takes a lot of work. In these verses, especially the second half, where does most of the work seem to point? Who needs to be worked on? What characteristics seem to be the greatest hinderances to unity and true community?
3. Have you ever experienced a season of isolation? Was there someone intentional about not "leaving you behind"? If so, what difference did it make?
4. 1 Sam. 23:15-17 Jonathan spoke life into David in the midst of his isolation. Read the passage again focusing on the life-giving words that Jonathan uttered to David. Have you experienced someone speaking like that into your potential? What was said to you? What impact did that have in your life?
5. What does it mean to prefer someone over yourself? What would it look like for you to be more "others minded" on your job, at your school, or in your home?
6. Who models that kind of selflessness to you? In what ways do they demonstrate that?
7. Who is someone in your life right now that needs you to come alongside and help them through a difficult time? How can you respond to God's invitation to "go get them"? Try to think of some specific ways. Pray for one another in the group and those whom God is calling you to reach out to.