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.”