



Friends

At

Midnight

Friends at Midnight

This compilation is not a book, nor an edited piece, it is a compilation of my personal devotional time either in the morning or during my afternoon meditations. I am praying that you will find the compilation a blessing regardless of the typing and grammatical errors.

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And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Luke 11:5-9

The above narrative from the Lord Jesus came as the disciples approached Him asking Him to teach them to pray.

While the narrative came as the Lord teaches His disciples to pray unceasingly, I looked at it in view of pursuing, overtaking and recovering all since the Lord was speaking of my friendship with Him; that He seeks friends and not servants.

I am looking at it in view of friendship. So, in this narrative, we have three friends.

Friend 1 – A friend on a midnight journey

She's in need at midnight

It is an awkward thing to have a need at midnight as it will be a bit difficult to find the right help. And indeed, many in our time are on midnight journeys; this may be in their marriages, parenting, finances, health etc. There are many on a midnight journey, particularly among women. And many of these women on midnight journeys are in severe need. Some are emotionally drained and consumed with their midnight journey. Some await the breaking forth of the dawn to no avail and are exhausted in their midnight journey. This midnight journey is not

only limited to those outside the church, even those in the church are affected by this midnight journey. And unfortunately, many who are on this midnight journey in the church have left the Lord seeking help from the wrong place because the church has become powerless and helpless.

There is a woman journeying a challenging marriage, there is another whose child is choosing an alternative lifestyle, and there is another who is experiencing difficulty in her health. To whom will she turn?

She came to me her friend

There may have been many whom this friend who is on a journey could go to, but she chose to knock on my door at midnight hour. Why me? Perhaps she knew that I would have what it takes to help her, or she knew how receptive I will be and won't snub her or question the reason for her midnight journey, or maybe I was the one closer to her destination, or maybe my house was just on her path while on a midnight journey.

I am seeing the need to use my friendship to secure friends who are going through midnight journeys. I can't be cold towards friends in the midnight season or choose to make friends just with those whose journeys are smooth and in broad daylight.

Friend 2

This is me; I have a friend that comes to me at midnight. There are many women both old and young on midnight journeys, to some of these it is an issue with their walk with God, children, parents, husbands, vocation etc.

And when these women are in the midnight hour, they are usually desperate, seeking a way out or a timely intervention, and when care is not taken, such women or young girls can become prey to the predators.

As a friend living in a generation where many are journeying through the midnight, am I equipped to respond to the cry of these midnight friends?

I have nothing to set before him.

The friend that the friend in need came to didn't have what her midnight friend needed. And such is my case too; I have nothing to lay on the table for these midnight friends. There are moments when I hear the stories of women, and I honestly did not have the right response, and at such moments I turned inward to the Lord to direct me as to how to handle the situa-

tion. This is to show that I have nothing to set on the table for those that come to me except the Lord gives me what to give.

More so, I must not despair that I have nothing to offer these friends at midnight, for I have a greater Friend.

I have another Friend.

As I saw earlier, though I have nothing to offer, I have someone to go to on their behalf. This is where my relationship with God is key. I can't afford to make nonsense of my relationship with God. Many women on the midnight journey will need my connection with the Big Friend to help them on their midnight journeys. What is my present relationship with this big Friend? Have I neglected my friendship with Him? I can't wait for when friends at midnight come for me to go and approach Him. Instead, I must be in a continuous relationship with Him.

I'll go to this Friend.

My going to this Friend of mine to resource my midnight friend is very vital, no more can I go to Him for myself alone anymore, but also on behalf of others.

This is what Christ does for me; He intercedes on my behalf before the Father, and that is what I am called to do. As I have been reconciled, so am I given a ministry of reconciliation.

I also believe that if I am in a good relationship with this Big Friend, He might speak to me ahead of time that a friend of mine will come at midnight.

Friend 3 – The Most important friend, the BIG Friend

This is God; He is omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent. He is unlimited, boundless and transcends all human needs.

It is Him I'll make my lack of what to offer my friend in need known. He'll give me my request because of my importunity, that is He sees my consistency and endurance on my friend's behalf.

The nature of this Big Friend

He's ever-present – Omnipresent

He's ever-knowing- Omniscient

He's ever powerful – Omnipotent

He's unlimited – has all resources

He's boundless – He knows no bound, and no situation can defeat Him.

Conclusion

So, I see the narrative of three friends, two were in need though their needs differ. One needed to offer substance to a friend in need, yet, she had nothing to offer. The other had a personal need at midnight hour; she was on a midnight journey, so she came to her friend to request help.

Unfortunately, the friend that was approached didn't have the substance to meet the need of the needy friend. But the good news is that of the BIG Friend. This friend that was approached had nothing to offer but had a big Friend that is approachable at any time of the day.

If I too can ever offer help to the needy around me, I can't take my friendship with the Big Friend for granted. I must make sure that our relationship is intact, I should be able to approach Him at any time for myself and my friends on midnight journeys.

There are friends at midnight who have been raided, captured, and beaten like the man that travelled from Jerusalem to Jericho in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Some are left half-dead and going from place to place seeking solutions. Peradventure they came to me, how will I be able to help them if I have no right standing with God?

I see that women have become captives because there are no friends who truly know the Big Friend and can approach the Big Friend on the needy woman's behalf.

The need to pursue, overtake and recover all will mean a deliberate pursuit of my friendship with God. And out of my friendship with Him, I'll then be able to pursue Him to meet the need of lives that are in captivity.

Prayer

- Father, help me to pursue my friendship with You.
- Help me to bring the need of my friends at midnight to You. Amen

