

Scott's Thoughts

August 13, 2023



"Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent." (Exodus 33:11, ESV)

I have a number of people that I call my "Friend." I have known some of them a great deal longer than others and within that group, I know some of them better than others. I like getting together with them and catching up on what is going on in their lives. Sometimes it is sad news and at other times we celebrate their good fortunes. But there is a smaller group within that group that I have stayed in constant touch with over the years. I know so much of what has transpired in their lives. I have celebrated with them the marriage of their children, the birth of grandchildren and for some even the birth of their great grandchildren. Sadly, I have also shared their grief at the loss of a loved one including not only their spouse but at times the loss of my friend as well.

I have a group of friends that I graduated from High School with. Over the many years since then I have come to know some of them better, thanks to social media. We have shared births, deaths, successes, and retirements with each other. There is a smaller group of friends that I have closer ties with, and time has no connection with how deep those ties are.

The greatest friend in my life is my wife, Ava. We are knocking on the door of being married for fifty-

three years and we dated for three years before taking our vows. We plan to continue to build our friendship and our marriage for the rest of our lives. Some of my greatest friends are in the church. I have served seven different congregations as a minister and five congregations as a working member. If my math is correct that is a total of twelve. In all of those places I have left behind a number of friends who are precious to me.

The Scripture that starts today's article mentions the relationship between God and Moses. I am not sure everyone thinks of God as a friend but let's think about what a true friend is. A true friend will tell you the truth even if it hurts your feelings. We need to remember that telling the truth may hurt them as much as it does us because we are risking their anger and withdrawal from us. God spoke to Moses in this way, and He speaks to us in this same way. That is a true friend.

The old song says, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and no truer words were ever spoken. He not only helps us see our areas of need; He also is willing to make atonement for them. Is it time to find this friend?

"Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him." (Job 2:11, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining. —Scott