

Audience of One

Week #5: Iron Sharpens Iron

Text: Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

- Hebrews 2:11 - *Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.*

1) Living for an Audience of 1 isn't a **solo** mission!

- Genesis 2:18 - *18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone.*
- Ecclesiastes 4:8-11 - *There was a man all alone, he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless — a miserable business! 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.*

2) Living for the Audience of 1 is impacted by the **audience** we do life with.

- Ecclesiastes 4:12 - *A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*
- Proverbs 12:26 - *The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.*

Choose Your Friends Wisely!

Take Away #1

Our **friendships** matter to God because they impact **who** we **are**.

- Hebrews 10:23-25 - *23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- 1 Corinthians 15:33,34 - *33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."*

Take Away #2

Our **friendships** matter to God because they influence **how** we **live**.

- Proverbs 17:17 - *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*
- Proverbs 18:24 - *One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*
- Proverbs 27:17 - *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

Points to Ponder

- 1) A or D - A good friend is hard to find? Why did you answer the way that you did?
- 2) Who is in your circle of friends? Do they sharpen you and make you better or do they corrupt your character? Do you need to consider some changes in the friends you have?
- 3) How can you help sharpen your friends? If you aren't the friend God wants you to be, what needs to change and why?

Homework for next week: Mark 1:6-11