**CREEKSIDE’S TEACHING NOTES** forSunday, June 18, 2017

**SATISFIED**

**Part 4**

**Finding and Being a Friend**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

**FOUR ADVANTAGES TO HAVING A FRIEND**

**1. A FRIEND WILL SHARPEN ME**

**Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:**Ecclesiastes 4:9

**As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.**

Proverbs 27:17

All of us are prone to dullness.

We need a friend to sharpen us.

**2. A FRIEND WILL ENCOURAGE ME**

**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.** Ecclesiastes 4:10

Even Jesus needed friends

**3. A FRIEND WILL COMFORT ME**

**Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
    But how can one keep warm alone?** Ecclesiastes 4:11

Swedish saying*, “Shared joy is doubled. Shared sorrow is halved.”*

**4. A FRIEND WILL PROTECT ME**

**Two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not**

**quickly broken.**

Ecclesiastes 4:12

**It is not good for the man to be alone.**

Genesis 2:18

All of us can learn the skills of becoming a friend . . .

*“Love must be learned, and learned again and again; there is no end to it. Hate needs no instruction but wants only to be provoked.”*

Katherine Anne Porter

**SIX ACTIONS THAT HELP ME FIND AND BE A FRIEND**

**1. ELEVATE FRIENDSHIP**

**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”**

John 13:34

Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

Lord Tennyson

**2. CULTIVATE TRANSPARENCY**

**I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**

John 15:15

**3. COMMUNICATE AFFECTION**

**A man who has friends must himself be friendly.**

Proverbs 18:24 NKJV

HOW? 1) Say it 2) Show it

**4. LIBERATE RELATIONSHIPS**

At the heart of love there is a simple secret:

The lover lets the beloved be free.

**Anonymous**

1) Allow for solitude 2) Encourage other relationships 3) Encourage uniqueness 4) Be prepared for changes in the relationship

**5. CELEBRATE FRIENDS**

A friend is a person who picks me up when I am down

and keeps me up when they are around.

**6. DEDICATE YOURSELF**

**A friend loves at all times.**

Proverbs 17:17

*A true friend is there when there is every reason not to be.*