

TFD#68 22nd September 2021 "Friends..."

Thanks Mark for the intro, it's great to be with you all.

I wonder if you know who the following are:

Rachel, Monica, Phoebe, Joey, Chandler, Ross.

The answer is "Friends". For those who remember it, it was an American sitcom based on 6 friends living in New York.

And it was first launched on this day 17 years ago, September 22nd 2004!

When its producers first pitched the concept to network NBC, they said "It's about ... a time in your life when everything's possible. And it's about friendship because when you're single and in the city, your friends are your family"¹.

"Your friends are your family". Perhaps that's why the series was so popular. In a lonely world, we all long to belong. And in a superficial world where we have hundreds of facebook friends, but sometimes very few real close friends, we crave lasting unconditional friendship from someone who says "I'll be there for you".

But I guess that as well as being popular, with its beautiful and funny cast, the series probably made its viewers feel like they could never quite find friends like that.

The Bible has a lot to say about friendship.

- Abraham was called God's friend (James 2:23).
- Exodus says that Moses would speak with God as one does with a friend (Ex 33:11).
- The Bible warns us of making a friendship with the world around us and so becoming enemies of God (James 4:4).
- But above all, Jesus Christ is the ultimate friend. He stuck with his disciples through thick and thin, lovingly challenging them when they got it wrong, and demonstrating true love by giving up his life for his friends. (John 15:13).

As we conclude, I wonder if there's someone you need to reach out to today. An old friend, or perhaps a new one. True friendship sticks with friends no matter what they are going through. I'm sure they'll be glad to hear from you, and no doubt they will be a blessing to you too.

And consider Jesus Christ. He still offers his friendship today, the greatest friendship and he's only a prayer away.

Thanks for listening. Have a great day, and enjoy this song which was of course the theme tune of that American sitcom... "Friends".

Followed by "[I'll be there for you](#)" by The Rembrandts.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friends>