

# Peter and His Epistles

## Lesson # 17: Peter and His Buddies

### I. Peter's companions (background: Acts 9-12)

- A. Silas (1 Peter 5:12) served as Peter and Paul's secretary.
- B. "She who is in Babylon" (1 Peter 5:13). This is referring to a church, not an individual. (Babylon in Egypt, Babylon in Persia or Rome itself).
- C. Mark (1 Peter 5:13) – a cousin of Peter (see Acts 12:12). He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey but left them at Perga. Later he proved to be helpful for ongoing ministry (2 Tim. 4:11)

### II. Paul's companions

- A. **Barnabas** – a Jew from the island of Cyprus whose name means "son of encouragement." Mentioned 31 times in the New Testament. He mentions Paul and accompanies him on his first missionary journey. He "rescued John Mark" for missionary service (Acts 15).
- B. **Silas (Silvanus)** – traveled with Paul and Timothy throughout Macedonia and Achaia but he is later associated with Paul in Rome. He served as his secretary (Acts 15-16).
- C. **Timothy** – mentioned 26 times New Testament. He is Paul's closest assistant. He delivers 6 of Paul's letters (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians and Philemon). He was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. He pastored the church in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:1-3, 4:11-16).
- D. **Titus** – a Greek companion who is not mentioned in the book of Acts. Was Paul's messenger to the churches in Macedonia and Achaia (especially Corinth) 2 Cor. 7:5-8:24, 12:18.
- E. **Mark (John Mark)** – see Acts 12:25, 15:37
- F. The "Roman Seven" (those who accompanied him during his imprisonment in Rome): Col. 4:7-17
  - 1. Tychicus – a "beloved brother." Nate of Ephesus. He was the courier of the letter to the Ephesians and probably 2 Corinthians. He traveled with Paul on his third missionary journey.
  - 2. Onesimus – another "beloved brother" who was a slave of Philemon.
  - 3. Aristarchus – a Jew who was a "fellow prisoner" from Thessalonica (he and Epaphrus probably traded off staying in Rome with Paul).
  - 4. Mark (John Mark, Marcus) – the cousin of Barnabas
  - 5. Justus (Jesus who is called Justus) – a "fellow worker unto the Kingdom of God." An evangelist.
  - 6. Epaphras – from Colossae – a prayerful interceder

7. Luke – a Gentile from Antioch of Syria, a doctor, author of the gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. 2 Tim. 4:11
- G. **Demas** (Col. 4:14 and 2 Tim. 4:10) In Colossians, he is just acknowledged as being there. Five to seven years later in 2 Timothy he forsakes Paul.
- H. **Aquila and Priscilla** – a Jewish couple who were expelled from Rome by Claudius. Served with Paul at Corinth, Ephesus and Rome. Leaders of a house church (Rom. 16:3-5, 2 Tim. 4:19, 1 Cor. 16:19, Rom 16:3, Acts 18:18).
- I. **Phoebe** – a deaconess in the port city of Corinth. She probably delivered Paul’s letter to the Roman church (Rom. 16:1-2)
- J. **Apollos** – a Jew from Alexandria. An eloquent and knowledgeable preacher who served in Ephesus (Acts 18), Corinth (Acts 18-19, 1 Cor.) and likely Crete (Titus 3:13)

### III. Paul’s close friends – see the greetings listed in Rom. 16:3-16

### IV. So what? Make sure you have godly companions for life too!

- A. The great example: David and Jonathan (1 Sam. 18-23)
  1. Make sure you have “someone who’s heart beats” with yours (1 Sam. 18:1)
    - a. A word about Jonathan’s love (Hebrew word “*aheb*”). This is not the word used for intimate, physical love. Nor is it the word normally translated “to know” meaning to have sex with. “*Aheb*” implies some political overtones, it “denotes more than natural affection however, deep and genuine this may have been.” (The Expositor’s Bible, p. 707)
    - b. Their covenant: (literally, “spirit was bound with spirit”)
    - c. Jonathan took off his robe and gave it to David as a symbol –transferring his own status as heir to David.
    - d. At this critical moment in his life, David needed an intimate, caring friend who’s heart beat with his!
  2. Notice how Jonathan expresses this devotion to his friend
    - a. Jonathan was willing to sacrifice for his friend (1 Sam. 18:4, 20:4)
    - b. Jonathan was a loyal defender of David before others. (1 Sam. 19:4-5)
    - c. Jonathan was willing to give David freedom to be himself. (1 Sam. 20:41)(to express his deep friendship)
    - d. Jonathan was a constant source of encouragement for his friend. (1 Sam. 23:15-16)
- B. Make sure you are part of “the fellowship of the mat” (Luke 5:18-26, Mark 2:2-12, Matt. 9:2-8)
 

Real friends are “roof crashers”

  1. They worked together!
 

Each of them tore open the roof, held on to a rope and lowered their friend. It took all four of them!
  2. They were into it!

Someone has defined the family as “a group which possesses and implements an irrational commitment to the well being of its members.”

Like a family, these four friends had an “irrational commitment” to their sick friend.

3. They took specific action on his behalf. They carried him and his “mat.”
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### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Do you have some godly companions for the journey of life? Why? Why not?
2. Are you a member of the “fellowship of the mat?” Is there someone you need to serve this week?