

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Ok, we get to start off the day saying “ouch” because anytime you have a wound, there is an ouch associated with getting that wound. But don’t we want friends that make us feel good, and not just good, but also that make us feel good about ourselves? Yeah, we want to laugh with them and have a good time with them. Or even have them there to cry with us when we are sad or something bad is going on in our lives.

† **Romans 12:15** *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*

But do we choose or hang onto a friend who will cause a wound, or one who is telling us the truth, something that causes us to say ouch? I think the key is that it is a friend, and a friend would only do so, not because they want to hurt us, but because they want us to wake up to the reality of what we are doing or address a bad decision we are making.

Think of Jesus and Peter; Peter had an ouch moment, but it did not come right away.

† **Matthew 26:33-35** *Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.*

Jesus was the Apostles teacher. But He was not just their Teacher, but He was also their friend as well. In this example, Peter stuck his foot in his mouth by the statement he made, *"Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"* and Jesus corrected Peter in love. Even though He did, Peter still argued it with Jesus. I don’t think Peter would have had that “ouch” moment, which we will see next, if he would have listened to Jesus, because Peter would have listened and taken Jesus’ words to heart. But we know Peter too well, because we are just like him, and that “ouch” moment came the following day.

† **Matthew 26:75** *And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.*

There is Peter’s wound, and it hurt so much that it caused him to not only say or think “ouch” but to weep bitterly. But also notice that the second half of today’s Psalm was in this scenario as well. *"But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."*

I think it's possible Satan was whispering in Peter's ear that Jesus was wrong, and that he (Peter) would never allow anything like that to happen, because he was Jesus' friend. "***Peter said to Him, 'Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!'***"

Peter may have felt good about what he said to Jesus, and notice it not only affected Peter, but the other disciples as well; "***And so said all the disciples.***"

So, one thing I think this parable is telling us is to stop trying to find friends that make us feel good about ourselves, but rather who are honest with us, so that we will be more Christ like and less like ourselves.

† **Proverbs 27:9** *Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.*

† **Proverbs 18:24 (NLT2)** *There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.*