

# Needed: True Friends

by Theodore Epp

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of true friendship and support during difficult times, as illustrated by Job's experience.*

**Scripture:** Job 2:11

**Topics:** "True Friendship", "Support in Suffering"

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## Description

Theodore Epp emphasizes the significance of true friendship in times of distress, using the story of Job and his friends as a cautionary tale. While Job's friends initially showed up in silence, their lack of support during his suffering highlighted their failure to provide the comfort he needed. Job's moment of despair, where he cursed the day of his birth but did not curse God, illustrates the struggle between doubt and faith. Epp challenges us to reflect on our own friendships and whether we truly support those in need or inadvertently add to their burdens. The sermon concludes with the reminder that 'A friend loveth at all times' (Proverbs 17:17).

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## Transcript

Job 2:11-3:5

Friends can be very valuable. The right kind of friends can help us over the difficult spots in life. But the quality of friendship expressed by these three men left much to be desired.

When they saw Job's plight, they were shocked. They hardly knew what to think. The man whom they had known as the greatest man in their part of the world was ill and sitting on an ash heap. They were silent for seven days, having no comfort to give him. They said nothing, and apparently Job said nothing in all that time. But Satan kept up the pressure, and finally at the end of the seven days Job opened his mouth and cursed the day he was born.

In the wake of all these combined losses, now had come the crowning loss--he began to doubt that God really cared about him. This was a most crucial moment in Job's experience. He cursed the day of his birth, but he did not curse God. He doubted God's care, but he did not lose faith that God existed.

This was when his friends should have helped him. This was when they should have encouraged him, but they did not.

Are we friends to those in need? Do we stand by fellow believers when they experience times of difficulty and stress? Or do we find someone in difficulty and add to their troubles?

"A friend loveth at all times" (Prov. 17:17).

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/theodore-epp/needed-true-friends/>

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