



JEANNE MAYO'S

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VOLUME 09.03

HOW MANY FACEBOOK FRIENDS DO YOU HAVE?

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HOW MANY FACEBOOK FRIENDS DO YOU HAVE?

Skit: Welcome to “Facebook-Mania!”

- Proverbs 27:17 & 19, “Just like iron sharpens iron, so does a man make his friend sharper... Just as water mirrors the look of one’s face, so does one man mirror back the heart of his friend.”
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, “Two friends are better than just one person alone...because if one of them falls, the other person will lift him up. Look out if you fall when you are alone because you don’t have anyone nearby to help you get back up.”
- Proverbs 18:24, “There is a simple key to having a lot of friends. You have to first show yourself to be friendly! Just remember, though, that there is a Friend who will stick closer to you than even a brother.”

OPENING STORY: Let me tell you about a weird guy named “Howard Hughes” who was one of the richest men who ever lived...rich in some ways.

KEY #1 - Assign high priority to your relationships.

- Jesus did. His first act of Kingdom-building was friendship-building.
- We make the mistake of assuming that good friendships will “just happen.” But the older we get, the more we have to choose to REALLY WORK at cultivating true friendship.

KEY #2 - Cultivate transparency.

- Jesus did. He kept waking the disciples up in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26), making it clear to them that He needed them.
- “We lead people through our strengths, but we connect with people through our weaknesses.”
- “How are you?” vs. “How are you really?”
- “Oh the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words but to pour them all out, just as it is, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keeping what is worth keeping and then, with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.” - George Eliot

KEY #3 - Dare to put words behind your affection.

- Jesus did. In fact, Jesus wanted to make sure His disciples understood His deep love for them, so He put it into WORDS. “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. But I now call you FRIENDS because I have passed on to you everything the Father has made known to Me.” (John 15:15)
- A fun study from researchers with “Psychology Today” on what makes a woman attractive to a man by Dr. Elaine Walster.
- Seneca (2000 years ago): “If you wish to be loved, love.”

CONCLUSION: Friendships are often lame because of our obsession with ROMANCE and our laziness with FRIENDSHIP. We confuse “Love and Infatuation.” Let me read an old column by Ann Landers on the difference.

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FACEBOOK-MANIA

Props: Two small tables, two chairs and two laptops

Characters: One guy and one girl. (We used the actual peoples' names for our characters, but you can change the names to whatever you would like.)

Set-Up: On-stage there are two tables, each with one chair, set up on opposite sides of the stage. The chairs are on the outsides of the tables so that when the characters sit down they are somewhat facing each other. The scene begins with the girl already on-stage, sitting down at her table looking at her laptop. The guy is offstage and comes on stage to sit down at his table with his laptop right when the girl begins talking.

This skit flows like two separate monologues going back and forth between the two characters. They never have any actual interaction with one another. As the audience, we are just looking in on both sides of the story. When one speaks, the other does not necessarily need to "freeze," they just go silent and pretend to be doing something on their laptop.

Brandi: I know Chelsea updated her Facebook profile...let see what she's up to. Bowling tonight huh? That sounds fun. Brady? Why did Chelsea add Brady as a friend? He has got to be the dumbest guy ever. Isn't he the one who pooped himself in the 2nd grade? All he does is sleep in the back of the classroom in my 3rd period. Wow!

Brady: Ok, almost loaded. Ok, let's see how many friend requests I got in today...13. Well, that's not my personal best, but it's a great starting point for the day! Let's see, what have I not done in awhile? Groups! I haven't joined a group in awhile. Let's see...SWIM TEAM! My school has a Swim Team Group! Cool, that's gotta be friends!

Brandi: What is Brady doing on the Girls' Swim Team Group? He's not even a girl! Well, at least I still have more friends than he does.

Brady: Girls' Swim Team! 23 friends in the Girls' Swim Team. Boo-yah! Yes! Friend suggestions...
Amy, she's alright...accepted
Matt Wood, he's a jock so he's bound to know at least a few people
Julie is kind of psycho, but...accepted!
Mike, (kind of hesitant) he's a band kid...accepted
Brandi Shea, where do I know that name? Brandi Shea. She's that creeper girl in third hour! Let's see if I can send her a request at least.

Brandi: Brady just asked to be my friend? That's so weird. Well...Chelsea added him...whatever...it's another add. Accept.

- Brady: Ok, if she's such a creeper, I don't know how she has 163 friends because I only have 147. That's not ok. It says she's in...The Poets Association of America. I didn't really know they had a group. Well that's got to be at least 12 people though. I look like a poet. I think. I'm a poet! I'm a poet and I don't even know it! See this poetry thing is way easier than I even thought. I could at least get a few friends out of this. This is so easy.
- Brandi: Oh, The Poets Association has a reading tomorrow...and I got an invite! Double dandy!!! Hey...that rhymes with candy which rhymes with Brandi! Oh my gosh, I'm so good!
- Brady: I wonder how many friends I could get by the end of the day. Let's see, I have a lot to do. I've got...homework...pass. Let's see, TV shows...no, don't really watch TV. Hang out with friends...but I don't have any real friends. So, it looks like I'm Facebookin' all night! All right!
- Brandi: Wait... Brady just got 63 friends... by joining the "I Can't Wait for Britney Spears' Comeback Tour" Group. Wow. That's so lame.
- Brady: GROUPS ROCK! Love these! Tammy's in that group and she knows Janet and Janet's smokin'! Yeah! I'm moving up the social ladder...I'm moving places, I'm goin'.
- Brandi: Why did Janet just add him? I know for a fact she had never talked to that guy! We are best friends and I would know if she's talked to him! Fine. Take this Brady!
- Brady: (Very depressed) I didn't even know my mom had a Facebook. How is she in all these groups? My mom has more friends than I do. She doesn't even go to church, how is she gonna be in the "Chosen" Facebook Group? (Yells) Mom! Mom! I'm yellin' at you, mom. How do you even know all my friends? You have more friends than I do...you don't even know 'em. No, I'm not yellin', I'm just askin', I swear I was takin' it out...that was the next item on my list. It was right after I Facebooked...all night. Mom, I'm sorry, don't yell at me!
(Runs off stage and lights go down)

THE HOWARD HUGHES STORY

There is a story about a guy who was a billionaire that lived years ago. He's been dead for a long time now. During the time that he lived, he was considered to be the richest man in America. His name was Howard Hughes.

He was the world's greatest mystery. He was so secretive and so reclusive that for more than 15 years no one could say for certain that he was alive...much less how he looked or behaved because, as rich as he was, he hid out so much. Howard Hughes was one of the richest men in the world. The destinies of thousands of people, perhaps even full governments of smaller nations, were at his disposal because he was so unbelievably wealthy...and yet he lived a sunless, joyless and, as people who knew him up close said of his later life, half-lunatic life. In his later years, he fled from one resort to another...from Las Vegas to Acapulco...just to hide out because he was paranoid and didn't want to be around people. He was afraid he'd get germs and somehow be taken down with some sickness, afraid that someone would try to do him harm. It is said that as he got older his physical appearance became weirder and weirder looking. His straggly beard hung down to his waist and his hair reached to the middle of his back. And because he, for some reason, feared that if people cut his fingernails or toenails it would somehow give him germs, it is said that when he died his fingernails were two inches long, and his toenails hadn't been trimmed for so long they looked like corkscrews.

He had been married to a woman named, Jean Peters, for 13 years. She was known as one of the most beautiful women who ever lived way back in the 60's. I guess that's why she chose to marry him. She was so gorgeous, she thought she could get money out of the deal. But through all the 13 years they were married, never in that time were the two seen in public together, and there is no record of their ever having been photographed together. For awhile they occupied separate bungalows at a really expensive hotel, the Beverly Hills Hotel, and later she lived in an well-to-do and carefully guarded French Regency house atop a hill in Bel Air. She would occasionally make secretive and increasingly infrequent visits to meet with her husband, Howard Hughes, in Las Vegas. Finally in 1970 after they lived this strange lifestyle for 13 years, they were divorced.

One of Hughes' confidants, one of many that were paid huge sums of money, said, "As far as I know, he's never loved anyone besides himself. If there were women, he only went after them for sex or for a good box office...that is all a woman meant to him." Howard Hughes used to say, "Every man has his price or a guy like me couldn't exist in the world." Yet no amount of money bought him love or affection from his associates. Most of the men and women who were employed by him, though he paid them huge sums of money, broke their silence after he died and they all, without exception, talked about their hatred and disgust for him.

Why was Hughes, though he was so unbelievably wealthy, so isolated and lonely? Why, with almost unlimited money, hundreds of aides and countless beautiful women available to him, was his life so miserable? The answer is simple...he chose it to be.

God gave us things to use and people to enjoy but Howard Hughes never learned to enjoy people. He was too busy manipulating them. Big things to him were machines, gadgets, technology, airplanes, and money, yet Howard Hughes never learned that real happiness in life comes from friendships...the right kind of friendships.

“THE HARD-TO-GET WOMAN”

Psychologists, Dr. Ruth, Socrates and Dear Abby all agree that the women whose affection is not easily won is the one the guys will want to go after.

But Dr. Elaine Walster and other researchers tell in *Psychology Today* about an experiment with 500 college guys and 500 college girls. They told the guys they would be matched by computer to a girl they had never met before to go out with to see what kind of relationships sprung up. What the guys didn't know was that 250 girls were given the instruction that they were to be aloof, cool, distant and untouchable...to have an “I won't let you think that there's anything cool about you” attitude...because that is supposed to make her more attractive. The other 250 were told that they were to become immediately friendly, not in a sexual way, but a warm, engaging and positive way.

When interviewed before they went out on the dates, the guys said they preferred the hard-to-get girl because she so was cooler, more beautiful and more all that other stuff. But the research broke down because when they went out on the date and came back to register to ask for a second date, it didn't work out as they thought. The highest percentage requested for a second date went to the girls that were warm and friendly. And as they followed the research, they learned the girls that were the most attractive were the girls that had an uncanny balance. They didn't project themselves as cheap, but gave the impression that they held themselves in reserve and not just any guy could get them. So, they had a portion of this mystic and allusiveness, but when they got on the date they were relationally warm and friendly. They put words of encouragement behind their time together so that when the guy left they felt like a million dollars.

“LOVE OR INFATUATION?” by Ann Landers

Infatuation leaps into your heart. **Love** usually takes root slowly, though it may begin with a burst of infatuation. True love, like anything healthy, needs time to grow.

Infatuation comes with a sense of uncertainty and is often born during a time of personal insecurity. You are excited and thrilled...yet not steadily happy. You are miserable when the other person is absent...and you simply can't wait until you are able to see each other again. **Love**, on the other hand, begins with a sense of security. You are blessed with a sense of the other person's nearness even when you are apart. Miles do not really separate you. Of course, you want the other person near. But whether you are near or far, you know that you are secure in your relationship. So you can wait.

Infatuation says, "We need to get married really soon. I can't risk losing you." **Love** says, "Don't rush into anything. We are sure of one another. We do not need to rush into life-altering decisions in order to anchor our relationship."

Infatuation has an element of high excitement...much of it being romantic or sexual. If you're honest, it becomes increasingly difficult to enjoy each other if romance, in one form or another, is not part of your time together. Slowly but surely, your ability to communicate as friends becomes less rather than more. **Love**, on the other hand, is the most mature of friendships. You must be genuine and deep friends before you can be true lovers. And if absolutely everything romantic were removed from the relationship, that person would still be your "best friend"...for real.

Infatuation lacks confidence. When you're away from each other, you wonder who the other person "is with." Sometimes you even check. It bothers you when you're in a group and someone else seems to get some special attention from your partner. As a matter of fact, this insecurity makes you easily jealous and sometimes controlling. But **love** builds slowly on a foundation of trust. You may fall into infatuation, but you never fall into love. That's as impossible as a five year old child "falling" into being an adult. Love will take time...no matter how many of the essential "ingredients" are there to begin with. There will be no "falling into it." It will be a steady, slow building over a period of time. That's why romances fall apart so quickly these days. They can "unravel" as quickly as they sprang into being.

Infatuation may be "blind"...but true love never is. **Love** is a calculated DECISION. It says, "I know your faults and weaknesses better than almost anyone...but I still choose to love you."

And lastly, **infatuation** can easily lead you to do some things for which you will later be sorry. It can strip you of your self-worth, dignity and future plans. But not so with true love. True **love** will give you the courage to control yourself...your tongue, your mind and your body...for the ultimate good of the other person. And for the ultimate good of yourself.

And for the Christian, love and infatuation will have one final clue. **Infatuation** will war constantly to be "priority" in your life. "Our time...our needs...our future." All these things will demand to come first. But true **love** will not fight to be your priority. Instead, it will fight to make Christ more your priority. And magic of all magic, as you each draw closer to the Father, you find that you somehow draw closer to each other. This indeed is a "match made in Heaven." First Corinthians says it well, "And now abides faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is LOVE."

INEXPENSIVE TOKEN OPTIONS

Plastic telescope

Tie with raffia around it a tag that says, "Show me your friends and I will show you your future."

Heart ornament or small mirror

The tag might read, "If you wish to be loved, love. (Seneca)"

Pack of seeds or one in a small pot

The tag might read, "Cultivating anything...even friendships...takes time and attention. How well are you doing?"

Piece of shaped cement or framed picture of a road

The tag might read, "Friendship is the paved highway the Holy Spirit most travels on."

Piece of toy railroad track or train

The tag might read, "The number one thing that will derail (or trainwreck) a person's destiny and purpose will forever boil down to relational choices. Choose your friends wisely."

Laminate something with a similar Facebook logo

Underneath you might print, "Be one of the most fulfilled people in life - assign high priority, cultivate transparency and put words behind your affection when it comes to your friendships." or "There is a big difference between teenage popularity and real friendships."

HOW MANY FACEBOOK FRIENDS DO YOU HAVE? DISCUSSION OUTLINE

[Leader: The first two questions are easy “ice-breaker” ones that are meant to be answered by most, if not all, of your group in order to get them talking.]

1. Are you on Facebook? If so, what do you love about it?
2. Do you personally know all your Facebook Friends? What percentage of them do you think are “true” friends?
3. The girl that went to see the stranger on Facebook that she thought was her “friend” didn’t make a bright move that day. In fact, it cost the girl her life. Why do people take chances with “friends,” who are really strangers, on places like Facebook?
4. It was said, “There’s a big difference between teenage popularity and real friendships that last...a big difference!” Think about some of the people you know that have graduated, do you think that’s a true statement? How so?
5. “Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future” is a great one-liner. In what ways do friends play a significant role in determining your future?
6. Someone recap for me the story of Howard Hughes. What made it such a sad story?
7. Howard Hughes “chose” not to do the “work” necessary to cultivate friendships. What kind of work or effort does it take to create lasting friendships?
8. In order to create lasting friendships, specifically what three key things were mentioned?
[Key #1 – Assign high priority to your relationships
Key #2 – Cultivate transparency
Key #3 – Dare to put words behind your affection]
9. What do you risk being transparent in a friendship? Why is it worth the risk?
10. Does your family easily put words to their affection? If not, how hard will it be for you to do it?
11. Three different people shared tonight who are good at assigning high priority, cultivating transparency and putting words behind their affection. If you were to add to the list of people who are good at any or all of these three things, what names would you put on the list and why do you think they are worthy to be added?
12. Proverbs 18:24 says, “There is a simple key to having a lot of friends. You have to first show yourself to be friendly!” All the stuff we mentioned helps to “show yourself friendly.” Overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, how friendly do you think you are? Explain your answer.
13. Name one simple thing you can work on this week to become “friendlier.”

Close in prayer.

CALLED TO COACH

Darren Hileman

I. Qualities of a coach

- A. A spiritual coach gets his/her motivation from the Lord and from the calling upon his/her life. Matthew 28:19-20
 - 1. A coach can't look to people for his/her divine purpose, he/she must look to the Master for it.
- B. A coach must understand their calling. Ephesians 4:1-3, Colossians 1:9-10, I Timothy 1:12
 - 1. They must understand they are not just called to be another companion; they are called to be a spiritual coach.
 - 2. Part of a coach's calling is asking "acid" questions.
 - a. How are you and Jesus doing?
 - b. How can I be a better friend to you?
 - c. How can I help you set up safeguards?
- C. A coach must never abandon the basics.
 - 1. Prayer
 - 2. The Word
 - 3. Godly peers
 - 4. Worship
- D. A coach must be a person of character.
 - 1. A coach's most powerful ally is his or her example.
 - 2. Their life brings legitimacy to the message they preach.
 - 3. Who they are lines up with what they say.
- E. A coach must be coachable.
 - 1. To be effective in authority you must be under authority.
- F. A coach must be a servant. Matthew 20:28
 - 1. They must have the "death in me is life in them" mentality.
 - 2. They must seek to serve, not be served.
 - 3. They serve their way into leadership.
- G. A coach must pay higher prices than the players. John 15:20a
 - 1. The higher the price, the bigger the impact.
 - 2. Convictions, lifestyle, standards, prayer and reading the Word are just a few places that prices must be paid.

- H. A coach must be a person of strong convictions. Romans 14:15-15:2, I Corinthians 8:9-13, I Corinthians 10:23-24, I Corinthians 11:1
 - 1. They must not compromise their convictions in order to keep the crowd.
 - 2. If you compromise your convictions, you'll lose the power to make godly impact.
 - a. What you compromise to keep, you lose.
 - 3. You have to be different in order to make a difference.
 - a. A coach must be courageous.
 - i. They have the courage to make the tough calls.
 - a. Everybody makes suggestions but a coach must make decisions.
 - ii. Courage is not the absence of fear. It's doing what needs to be done in the presence of fear.
- I. A coach must be a person of strong confidence. Proverbs 14:26
 - 1. The confidence it takes to be an effective coach comes from Christ, not the crowd or your companions.
- J. A coach must learn how to die to compliments and criticism.
 - 1. Your strength as an individual depends on how you respond to both criticism and compliments.
 - a. If you let either have any special affect on you, it's going to hurt you and the team.
 - 2. If you get caught up in things over which you can't control, it will affect those things you have control of.
 - 3. Don't get caught up in other peoples' opinions.
 - a. Don't allow "fiction" to overrule "fact."
- K. A coach must keep things in their proper perspective. II Corinthians 4:16-18, Colossians 3:1-3
 - 1. Failure to do so will affect their ability to prepare and perform in the game.
 - 2. Failure to do so will steal your peace of mind.
- L. A coach must work to keep emotions under control.
 - 1. He must walk by faith not follow feelings.
 - 2. Our thinking is tainted by excessive emotion.
 - 3. If you need emotionalism to make you perform better, then sooner or later you'll be vulnerable in an unhealthy way, an emotional wreck and unable to function to your level of ability.

II. The calling of a coach

- A. A coach works to earn the respect of his players.
 - 1. The most essential thing for a coach to have is the respect of his players.
 - a. We earn respect by giving respect.
 - 2. If you don't earn the respect of your players, they will serve with their lips but not with their lives.

- B. A coach works to focus his players on a specific purpose.
 - 1. Leadership is the ability to get individuals to work together for the common good and the best possible results.
 - 2. He must work to keep his players' heads in the game.
 - a. What's really important? What's really priority?
 - 3. A good coach will inspire his players to do what they don't desire in order to attain something they all desire.

- C. A coach attempts to pull out the highest potential of his players.
 - 1. He strives to get the players to see the potential they possess.

- D. A coach works to prepare his players for their opponents.
 - 1. We should be working to help our players make an impact and tackle temptations and tests.
 - 2. We should help our players set up safeguards and identify personal "hell-baits."

- E. A coach confronts his players.
 - 1. The goal of confrontation is to bring restoration not condemnation.
 - a. We must confront at the right time and in the right tone using the sandwich technique.
 - b. The purpose of "punishment" or "consequences" is to help, to prevent, to correct and to improve...not to hurt.
 - 2. He "realigns" or rebukes based on the relationship.
 - a. He differentiates between the coachable and the uncoachable.
 - b. He knows those whom he can govern and those whom he can guide.

- F. A coach analyzes the progress of his players.
 - 1. He realizes when his players aren't at "practice."
 - 2. He looks for progress not perfection.
 - a. We won't ever reach perfection, but we should give everything we have in trying to reach it.
 - b. When you improve a little each day, eventually big things occur.

- G. A coach works to produce a sense of team pride.
 - 1. We should be proud to have an eternal purpose and be living for the cause of Christ.
Romans 1:16
 - 2. Pride is a much stronger motivation than punishment.

- H. A coach realizes that each person is a key player.
 - 1. A coach makes everyone on the team feel valuable.
 - a. If they are on the team, they deserve to be valued and to feel valued.
 - b. Every person should feel they have a part to play, including the coach.
I Corinthians 12:18-22, Ephesians 4:16

- I. A coach identifies his “playmakers” and puts the ball in their hands.
 - 1. They look for and mentor the momentum makers.
 - a. Team captains.
 - 2. They invest more time into the people that desire to be players and make an eternal difference.
 - a. Cater to the called not compromised.
 - b. Pastor them all, disciple a few.
 - c. Where you focus is what you fuel.
 - 3. They treat players fairly.
 - a. Fairness is giving all people the treatment they earn and deserve.
 - b. It doesn’t mean treating everyone alike.
- J. A coach calls a time out when the countenance of the players change.
 - 1. They strive for open communication.
 - 2. They don’t attempt to control.
 - a. The more you feel you’re losing control, the more temptation there will be to take control, which will in effect cause you to lose it.
 - b. They focus on things they can control.
 - 3. They continue to call plays as long as the player wants to play.
 - a. They set the standard and allow each person the right to pay the price for themselves.
 - b. If the player doesn’t listen, the coach moves from the sidelines to the stands.
- K. A coach works with his players, the players don’t work for the coach.
 - 1. A coach and those “under” his supervision should have a sense of working together for a common cause.
- L. A coach works to clearly communicate his expectations to his players.
 - 1. Both the player and the coach will become frustrated if there continues to be unmet expectations.
 - 2. The coach must only expect the player to play up to the level of their abilities.
- M. A coach knows when to keep things confidential.
 - 1. They don’t discuss problems of other players with the entire team.
 - 2. Problems are discussed among key coaches.
 - a. The purpose of the discussion is not to slander or gossip, but to help the player play to their highest potential.
- N. A coach works to keep community.
 - 1. They encourage players to “row” the boat so they don’t have time to “rock” it.
 - 2. They realize that division and distractions can result in destruction of a divine purpose.
 - 3. They work hard to remain calm during a crisis.

III. Characteristics of the coachable

- A. They accept responsibility for their actions and reactions.
 - 1. They don't attempt to "blame shift" or point to someone else in an attempt to excuse their actions.
- B. They're open and honest about weaknesses.
 - 1. They don't put up fronts or facades but are willing to be self-revealing to their coach.
- C. They put into practice what is "preached."
 - 1. They are obedient in the coach's absence not just when they are present.
 - 2. They put feet to the truths learned from their coach. II Timothy 2:2
- D. They're willing to receive correction and direction.
 - 1. They accept the reality that they have blind spots and have a need to receive correction and direction. Proverbs 15:31, Proverbs 17:20
- E. They encourage their coach to be confrontational.
 - 1. They talk to their coach about things that are questionable.
 - 2. They press past the surface to issues of the soul.
- F. They keep in contact with their coach.
 - 1. They've learned the importance of calling "time-outs" in the game of life (ex. quarterback looking to sideline)
 - 2. They don't expect the coach to call them, they call the coach.
- G. They practice principles long enough that they become a permanent part of their life.
 - 1. Practice makes "permanent" not "perfect."
 - 2. They understand that "persistence" will outlast "resistance."



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