



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

11/6/07

Program 7 – “You’ve Got A Friend” © 1971 Carole King

"You've Got a Friend" by Carole King, appeared on her legendary 1971 album *Tapestry*, and was named one of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's "500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll". James Taylor's rendition hit #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 on July 31, 1971, and won Grammy Awards both for Taylor (Best Pop Vocal Performance, Male) and King (Song of the Year) (S: Wikipedia).

Although not specifically written about Jesus, when you listen to this song, just "...Close your eyes and think of" Jesus as the One who is our divine Friend – who never fails us, and is always there for us – anytime, anywhere. The lyrics thus can minister to anyone needing assurance that the Lord is with them, that He loves and cares, and that He is Lord over any troubling situation.

Key Scriptures:

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." -- Proverbs 18:24

"...God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" – Hebrews 13:5

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" – Romans 8:35

When you're down and troubled
And you need a helping hand
And nothing, whoa nothing is going right.
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten up even your darkest nights.

(Carole King version: "When you're down in troubles
And you need some love and care...")
"If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" – Eccl 4:10

You just call out my name,
And you know wherever I am
I'll come running, oh yeah baby
To see you again.
Winter, spring, summer, or fall,
All you have to do is call
And I'll be there, yeah, yeah, yeah.
You've got a friend.

My 5-year-old may want nothing to do with me, but just let a big old dog come into the yard, and she comes running to dear Dad!
Many in the Bible seem larger than life, yet they cried out to God in times of personal anguish and despair – e.g., Job, Jeremiah, King David, Elijah -- even Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42-44) and on the cross, cried out to His Father in Heaven (Matthew 27:46)

If the sky above you
Should turn dark and full of clouds
And that old north wind should begin to blow
Keep your head together and call my name out loud
And soon I will be knocking upon your door.

Calling out to Jesus in times of trouble should be the Christian's first instinct!
"In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me." – Psalm 86:7

You just call out my name and you know wherever I am
I'll come running to see you again.
Winter, spring, summer or fall
All you got to do is call
And Ill be there, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Hey, ain't it good to know that you've got a friend?
People can be so cold.
They'll hurt you and desert you.
Well they'll take your soul if you let them.
Oh yeah, but don't you let them.

You just call out my name and you know wherever I am
I'll come running to see you again.
Oh babe, don't you know that,
Winter spring summer or fall,
Hey now, all you've got to do is call.
Lord, Ill be there, yes I will.
You've got a friend.
You've got a friend.
Ain't it good to know you've got a friend.
Ain't it good to know you've got a friend.
You've got a friend.

Final thoughts...

Keep in mind that our God is not a cosmic vending machine in which we make a token deposit whenever we need help dispensed.

In his 1978 movie "The End", Burt Reynolds plays a man who, after learning he has a fatal illness, tries repeatedly to kill himself. Reynolds spoofs the way people often try to bargain with God. Towards the end of the of the movie, he attempts to drown himself by swimming out to sea. But as the shoreline nearly disappears from view, Reynolds somehow discovers that he really wants to live. The prospects of making it back to land seem overwhelming. As he begins swimming back, he tries to bargain with God in exchange for survival. To show his sincerity to God, he initially cries out that he will give 80 percent of his yearly earnings and holdings to the church. But as Burt gets closer to shore and sees that in fact he will make it out alive, he incrementally lowers the percentage to a fraction of the original 80 percent pledged.

As the hymn says, "What a friend we have in Jesus!" Let's remember to always thank Him, and not take His friendship for granted!

There weren't any cell phones around when these lyrics were penned. If I call out the name of someone who's not within earshot, they can't hear me – but Jesus can!.

"In my distress I called to the LORD; I called out to my God. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears." – 2 Sam 22:7

- We call out to Jesus in prayer.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." – 1 Jn 5:14

- The route to the friendship He provides us was purchased at the highest imaginable cost – the excruciating death of His only Son, nailed to a cross and put on public display.
- Jesus showed us that you and I can have fellowship with Him and access to God the Father. Jesus is the Friend that sticks closer than a brother!
- By confessing our need for Him, and trusting Him for our salvation, we need not wonder where God is when we call out to Him. Jesus promised believers that the Holy Spirit would live in them (John 14:16-18). As such, believers already have the Spirit of God within them as Counselor. When we cry out to God, we have this assurance!