**Quotation – What Aristotle Got Right**

*“After that, the next topic is friendship; for it is a virtue, or involves virtue. Further, it is most necessary for our life. For no one would choose to live without friends even in he had all the other goods. Indeed rich people and holders of powerful positions, even more than other people, seem to need friends. For how would one benefit from such prosperity if one had no opportunity for beneficence, which is most often displayed, and most highly praised, in relation to friends? And how would one guard and protect prosperity without friends, when it is all the more precarious the greater it is?”* (Nichomachean Ethics, Book VIII Section 1, pg 119).

Aristotle hit this on the nose. Now in this passage the word friendship is *Philia*, which is defined as ’long term positive relatedness.’ This is very different from our contemporary definition of friend. In many other passages of Aristotle’s works, however, this same word *philia* is used in a way that implies a much deeper and intimate connection then just long term positive relatedness. It is this reason that I feel justified in defining the term friend in this passage very similar to how we today would define a ‘true friend’ or ‘best friend.’ In this passage the word ‘friend’ implies someone with which one is close, has a good long standing relationship with that person, and wants the other person to do well simply because one cares about the other person. It is with this more contemporary definition of the Greek word *philia* that I will be using to describe all the reasons that my man Aristotle hit this home-run of an idea so expertly.

I love how Aristotle points out that Friendship is extremely important, that it seems to be the one objectively *good* thing that everyone on the planet seems to need. I love how Aristotle points out that even the richest and most powerful positioned men in the world want friends. I especially love “For how would one benefit from such prosperity if one had no opportunity for beneficence, which his most often displayed, and most highly praised, in relation to friends?” This very ancient sounding sentence summed up in today’s dialect would be simply put, “What’s the point of success if you have no one to share it with?” This sentiment is one that strikes very close to my heart, as it is something that I think many people in our current culture seem to have forgotten. Nowadays, it seems that people use other people to get things, when at the end of the day, the one thing that everyone really wants is relationships. Some of the richest, most talented, and most successful people on the planet have chosen to *take their own lives* simply because they felt that they were *alone.* Friendship and relationships are incredibly important. Humans were not made to be alone. We don’t just like each other, we *need* each other, and I believe that Aristotle presents this idea quite beautifully in this passage of the Nichomachean Ethics.