



November 6, 2023

He Died Alone

The circumstances surrounding Matthew Perry's death remain shrouded in mystery, and I don't mean to comment on the details of this tragic event. Yet, what struck me was the stark, simple fact - he died alone. In the confines of his opulent multi-million-dollar home, surrounded by lavish amenities like a magnificent swimming pool and a hot tub, he took his last breath alone. Despite the wealth, success, national acclaim, and popularity that had graced his life, he died alone.

The unavoidable irony lies in the fact that he was best known for his role in *"Friends."* That lovable, quirky band of characters captured the hearts of a nation and even though the show concluded two decades ago, its theme song still echoes in our collective memory:

*"I'll be there for you, when the rain starts to pour.
I'll be there for you, like I've been there before
I'll be there for you, 'cause you're there for me too."*

The tragedy of his untimely passing, juxtaposed with the enduring friendships portrayed on screen, serves as a poignant reminder of the significance of human connection, the inherent value of companionship, and our profound human need for community.

The excruciating isolation of the pandemic taught us a sobering lesson in the burden of loneliness. We longed for human

interaction, and as much as we tried to substitute for it with virtual gatherings via Facetime or worship on Zoom, nothing could really fill the void. We sought solace in forming small bubbles of safe friendships to sustain us through those challenging times. I even tried wrapping my deck in plastic and buying an electric heater to try to host friends outside. (It didn't work.) Now that we are able to gather once again, I hope we never take for granted the precious gift of coming together as a community of faith and the vital role of nurturing our bonds of friendship.

St. Paul's writes, *"We do not live for ourselves, and we do not die for ourselves. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's"* (Romans 14:7).

Faith matters. Friendship matters. Gathering as the Body of Christ matters. Because when we are in Christ, none of us die alone.

**Click here to visit
"Friends"**

~Written by Jack Harnish

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