

Friendships, a Matter of Mutuality

Friendships for Francis occurred with spiritual persons as well. The most admirable of these was in the spiritual direction he offered to Jane Francis de Chantal. Jane was a young widow with four small children and desired to give herself totally to God.

From their first meeting in 1604, grace abounded between Francis and Jane and became one of the great spiritual relationships in Christian history. After they met, Francis agreed to be her spiritual director, but as spiritual director, he did not see the relationship as one-directional, rather the spiritual became the avenue for the relationship to grow, so that it became more and more a mutual relationship, a gift of grace to himself and the other (Power, 11).

Question: Another example of mutuality can be found Matthew 15: 21-29. This passage shows how Jesus' mission expanded to include Canaanites, a people who lived in Canaan. In your own experience of a mutual relationship, how was life expanded for you? for the other?