



The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 11.11.20

BIBLE STUDY - JESUS CHRIST: 13.HIS FRIENDS

Jesus enjoyed friendship:

- The Friendship of The Twelve - the disciples were chosen not only for the 3 years of His ministry, but also for eternal purposes;
- The Friendship of Peter, James & John - they were present at miracles and events not attended by the others:
 - i) The raising of Jairus' daughter - *Mark 5:37*
 - ii) They were taken up the mountain for the Transfiguration - *Matthew 17:1*All three men became leaders in the early church.
- One very close friend - the apostle John:
 - i) He spoke of himself as "the one Jesus loved" and in *John 14* he leant on Jesus' breast at the last supper;
 - ii) As far as we can tell, John was the only disciple to remain by Jesus throughout the crucifixion;
 - iii) Jesus entrusted the care of his mother to John - *John 19:25-27*
- A very close friendship with Mary, Martha & Lazarus - *Luke 10:38 & John 11:3*

***John 15:15 & John 15:13* - Jesus lays out the true meaning of friendship, which He offered to all mankind. He lay down His life that we might all be counted as His friends.**

What does it really mean to be a Friend of Christ?

- Type of friendship is important - God called various people from Old Testament times his friend: Abraham (*James 2:23*), Israel (Jacob - *Isaiah 41:8*) & Moses (*Exodus 33:11*);
- It is not a mutual, reciprocal friendship between two equals;
- In Christ's day, friendship was a more patron/client type (e.g. Herod & the Romans).

We are friends of Christ:

- Christ has declared this by laying down His life for us;
- **BUT** He is still our Lord and Master, with authority over us.
- It is a servant/master friendship - e.g. John the Apostle - a close friend, yet his response to seeing the glorified Christ is: "I fell at His feet as though dead" (*Rev.1:17*).

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST

1. We are Friends of Jesus if we obey His commandments

John 14:2- "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

- This is NOT saying obedience can "earn" friendship with Christ;
- It IS saying that those who are Christ's friends will behave in such a way.
- Christ will not be friends of those who live in disobedience and self-will
1 John 1:6, 2:4, 3:9. See also Mark 3:33-35
- OBEDIENCE is a key characteristic of friendship with Christ.
- Obedience is evidence of a true Christian when discernment is needed in the last days.
- Only those who obey Jesus are His friends - they are Jesus' words!

2. We are friends of Christ if we love one another

- Jesus said - Love me - Love my people - *John 15:12, 1John 2:9-11.*
You cannot be "in the light" if you do not love your brother and sister.
- Jesus loved with a sacrificial - *John 13:1 "...loved them to the end."*
- Jesus loved them even though they weren't perfect by any means.
- We should likewise love our brothers and sisters even when it is difficult to do so!
- We should love one another "to the end", even at the expense of our own comfort and interests.

3. We are friends of Christ if we understand His will

John 15:15 - "I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

- We are in a master/servant situation - purchased with a price;
- We have been brought from the slavery of sin to the slavery of righteousness;
- As our Lord, Christ has the right to command;
- As His slave to righteousness we can expect no explanation of His commands:
BUT - Christ values us like a master values a slave as a friend, and does give us an understanding of what He is doing - in His Word and by His Holy Spirit.

4. We are friends of Christ if we bear fruit

- *John 15* - all about the vine and bearing fruit;
- *v.16* - we were chosen "*that you might go and bear fruit*";
- We were chosen to do works prepared for us before the world began;
Why? - to bring glory to His name - the glory is that we bear much fruit (*John 15:8*);
- God "prunes us" through trials and suffering and removes things which hinder our fruitfulness;
- A danger lies in 'not bearing fruit', therefore we should concentrate on 'bearing fruit'!
- We should make ourselves **available** to bear fruit, like a servant waiting on a master's instructions.

**THE CHALLENGE:
ARE WE REALLY FULFILLING OUR MISSION AS FRIENDS OF JESUS?**