

UNTIL I RETURN

Based On the Book by Jeff Walling

Lesson 7 - Words of Encouragement; You've Got A Friend

Intro: *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.* ¹⁴ *You are my friends if you do what I command you.* ¹⁵ *No longer do I call you servants,^[G] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.* John 15:13-15

From this passage, what encouragement can we receive about our relationship to Christ?

Jesus, knowing that the world would _____ us and that Satan would _____ us, wanted us to feel secure in our relationship with him. So he called us F_____.

John also described Jesus as our A_____. (1 Jo.2:1)

Like any relationship, our friendship with Jesus must G_____ and M_____.

What does a friend tell you and do for you in times of struggles?

FOUR FEATURES OF DIVINE FRIENDSHIP

1. Friendship Is Born Out Of Freedom!

- Friendship is developed and not F_____ ED !
- Jesus O_____ RS us discipleship and we decide if we want to A_____ or not. Why?
- Read Matt.23:37. What did Jesus want of Jerusalem?
- Read Matt.20:1-16. Why would the Jewish leaders feel so troubled by this parable?

* When God forgives us through Christ, he does it out of free will, not because of a contractual commitment.

2. Friendship Is Built Through Communication!

- What is it that bonds you and your closest friend together?
- Read John 15:15 again. What was Jesus' distinction between slaves and friends?
 - * Through Jesus, we have been allowed to K_____ God!
- Read John 17:3. How did Jesus describe eternal life?
- With Jesus, friendship is a two-way street. What does He want from us in 1 Pet.5:7?
- Read Psa.63:6-8. How is our relationship with God described there?

3. Friendship Is Based On Sacrifice!

- Read John 15:13 again. True friendships C_____!
- Consider if you were an organ donor and the laws were different in that they could come take your organs when they were needed verses when you were through with them. What are some things you might want to know before you would donate?

What did Jesus have to sacrifice for your "friendship"?

What should we be willing to sacrifice for our "friendship" with Jesus?

4. Friendship Is Preserved Through Accountability!

- Friendship says, *If I care about you, I won't stand by and watch you H_____ yourself!*
- Read Jo.15:14. What condition did Jesus put on our friendship?
- What did Paul say about this in Romans 5:8?

* Our salvation is built on His W_____, not O_____!

God loves you just as you are, but he loves you too much to leave you that way! Max Lucado

- Friends don't let friends IG_____ God!