

## I'll Be A Friend To Jesus; John 15:12-15

- I. Friend
  - A. Someone you know well and regard with affection and trust
  - B. Merriam-Webster's - a favored companion
  - C. We all have or have had friends that we considered very close
    1. Those we like to spend time with
    2. Those whose advice we listen to
    3. Those who we would give almost anything to
  - D. But God has a different idea of what friendship is
- II. Friend of God
  - A. What does it mean to be a friend of God?
    1. Do we just count God as a favored companion?
    2. Do we just regard God with affection and trust?
    3. Do we just have to know God well?
    4. Jesus puts a condition on friendship with God
  - B. John 15:14; You are my friends if you do what I command you.
  - C. Jesus is talking to his 11 Apostles at this point
  - D. This is during the Passover meal just before Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane, just after Judas Iscariot left to betray Him
  - E. Let's examine Judas
    1. Luke 6:13–16; 13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: 14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 15 and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.
    2. John 6:66–71; 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." 70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.
    3. Mark 14:6–11; 6 But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. 9 And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." 10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. 11 And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.
    4. Luke 22:47–48; 47 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"
    5. "Kiss" - the act of touching one's lips to another person, especially as a greeting, for intimacy, or for adoration
    6. What was supposed to be a gesture of friendship and love becomes a betrayal

- F. Judas was unwilling to be a friend to Jesus, he was unwilling to do what Jesus commanded
- G. 1 John 5:2–3; 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
- H. I know there are other commands, but since the word “friend” is a derivative of the Greek word for brotherly love, we will focus on love as the condition for friendship with God
  - 1. John 14:15; “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
  - 2. John 13:34–35; 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- I. This is in contrast to loving the world

### III. Friend of the World

- A. James 4:1–5; 1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?
- B. Hymenaeus and Alexander who made shipwreck of their faith (1 Timothy 1:18-20)
- C. Demas who love this present world (2 Timothy 4:10)
- D. We are not told much about them, but we are told about a wealthy ruler
  - 1. Luke 18:18–23; 18 And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’ ” 21 And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.
- E. To the ruler, religion was a list of items to check off
- F. Christianity is a way of life, continually loving God and his commandments instead of the world and its lusts
  - 1. Romans 6:12–13; 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
  - 2. 1 John 2:15–17; 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
- G. The world has nothing to offer for our spiritual salvation
  - 1. Philippians 3:7–8; 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

H. Friends with the world means an enemy of God

IV. Greater Love

A. John 15:13; Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

B. This is really the idea that I am trying to bring across this morning

C. To be a Friend of Jesus, of God, we have to be willing to give up even our very lives

D. This is the example left for us by Jesus himself

1. Understand, when Jesus made this statement to his apostles in John 15:13, He was headed out to the Garden to be betrayed by his “friend” and arrested by His countrymen

2. John 16:25–33; 25 “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” 29 His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” 31 Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

E. There are people across this earth that are currently giving up their lives for Christ

1. Revelation 2:10–11; 10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

2. Revelation 12:11; And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

F. Most of us here will not ever be put in that situation, so how do we live out this idea of laying down our lives for God?

1. We see this idea in the parable of the wealthy ruler

2. There was something in-between him and God, it was his wealth

3. Jesus said, “Get that out of your way!”

4. Only you can answer the question, “What is in-between you and God?”

5. Whatever it is has to be removed!

V. A Friend of Jesus

A. Obedient to His commandments

B. An enemy of the world

C. Laying down our lives for Him