

What Jesus Wants! Part 3: "Friends!"

"Will you just do it for Me?" –Jesus "I know what you want from Me..." "But do you know what I want from you?"

Disciples... Who study because they are chosen by God to be like His Son! But who want to move beyond the beginner stage! **Heb 5/6** Who study to do the will of the Father! Knowing there are personal and kingdom benefits but who want to advance! Who study just because Jesus asks them to immerse themselves in His life! Because He believes we can be like Him and do what He does! And who discover He still wants more!

FRIENDS! Jesus wants us to be true friends!

OT Friendship... The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, *as a man speaks to his friend*. **Exodus 33.11** Aren't You our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Israel, and *gave it to the seed of Abraham, Your friend forever?* **2Chronicles 20.7** *Friends should show kindness, goodness and favor to those who are melting away under affliction.* **Job 6.14** *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for times of affliction, distress and trouble.* **Proverbs 17.17** A man that has friends must show himself friendly: *and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.* **Pr18.24** Make no friendship with an angry man and don't go with a furious man *because you may learn his ways and snare your soul.* **Pr 22.24,25**

OT Friendship... *Faithful are the wounds of a friend; the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.* **Pr 27.6** As ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so does the sweet, hearty counsel of a friend. *If you don't forsake your friends or your father's friends, in times of trouble you won't have to go looking for your brother because you will have a neighbor nearby.* **Pr 27.9,10** Iron sharpens iron; *so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.* **Pr 27.17** What are these wounds in your hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which *I was wounded in the house of my friends.* **Zechariah 13.6** Friends bear the slings and shortcomings of their friends' humanity! "Forgive them Father, for they don't know what they are doing!" **Luke 23.34**

NT Friends! "Friends, don't be bullied into silence about Me by those who threaten to kill you and have nothing else they can do. Let me tell you who to fear: Fear God, who has the power of life even after death; yes, Fear him alone." **Luke 12.4,5** Friends stand up and speak for one another even when push-comes-to-shove! "Greater love has no one than this, *that he lays down his life for his friends.* You are my friends, if you do what I command you." **John 15.13** Friends do what friends ask even if it's inconvenient/ redirecting/costly! "Who has a friend that will not yield to his friends insistence... *ask and keep asking, seek and keep seeking, knock and keep knocking!*" **Luke 11.5-10** Friends press in, and friends yield, on real needs! (And Jesus keeps asking!) "If you love, keep My commands, and I will ask the Father and He will send you the Holy Spirit who will live with you. If any one loves Me they will keep My words, and My Father will love them, *and we will come to them and make our home with them.*" **John 14.15,16,23** Friends "make room" for F/S/HS!

NT Friends! "I won't be calling you servants anymore, because servants don't always know what their Master is doing: from now on I will be calling you friends *because I am sharing with you all that I have heard of My Father.*" **John 15.15** "Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for

righteousness: *and he was called the friend of God.*" **James 2.23** "You are my friends, *if ye do whatsoever I command you.*" **John 15.14** ***Are not fair-weather friends!*** Whoever is a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do you think that the scripture says in vain, 'The spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy?' **James 4.4** "'This is too hard!' And from that time many left Him" **John 6.60, 66** Whosoever denies Me... **Luke 12.9** We're going to the end with you. And they all deserted Him... **Matthew 26.35** "*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind!*" **2Timothy 1.7**

1Samuel 18-20 ***The story of David, Jonathan and Saul!*** Saul was the passing king... David was God's chosen... Jonathan was Saul's son and David's beloved friend! David was God's hero in the battle with Goliath! "Jonathan was knit to the soul of David!" "Saul was very displeased, tried three times to kill David, and grew more afraid!" Jonathan recognized David as God's chosen And loved him more than his dad or his kingdom!

Analogy... Satan is the king of this world and we are all born into "captivity..." Slaves, but "co-ruler's!" We see Jesus and recognize Him as God's anointed, wise, and humble... And we love Him and in "first love" make commitments to Him for our salvation! But when it becomes clear that to love Him means we lose our worldly kingdom, self-rulership... do we love Him like Jonathan loved David? or like the fringe disciples loved Jesus?

Jonathan... Endured his father's anger and slanders... **1Sam 20.30** Jonathan gave up his "succession" to the "troubled" throne! **v31** His own father tried to kill him for his new allegiance... **v33** He had to bite down on his own pain, disillusionment and anger! **v34** But he remained a faithful friend to David at all cost! **v35-42**

Jonathan... Loved all the time, even in the harshest of adversity! He stuck closer than any brother! He did not adopt the ways of the angry, old, man (friendship with the ruler of this world)! He wasn't bullied into silence for his friend! He laid down his life for his friend! He never gave up or deserted his friend!

Us! ***Jesus said He would be with us to the end...***" The question is, "***Will you be with Me?***" Or will you only be My friend when you want, or I have given you, something? Friends don't desert friends! They stick! Where else are we going? Friends talk up their friends! And they talk through with their friends! Friends take on the nature of their friends! And pick up their burdens and mission!

"Will you, be My friend... just because I am asking?" -Jesus