**THE BEST FRIEND YOU COULD EVER HAVE**

**John 15:13-16**

[**13**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-15-13/) **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** [**14**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-15-14/) **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** [**15**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-15-15/) **Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.** [**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-15-16/) **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*Definition of a Friend: A Favored Companion**

**\*\* Jesus is a Favored Companion . . . the best friend you could ever have!**

**\*\*He proved His friendship in so many ways!**

**1. His Friendship is proven through His Cross**

**Verse 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

**\*\*Through an Old Rugged Cross . . .**

 **A. My Best Friend Gave Me Hope**

**Psalms 38:15 15**[**For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-38-15/)

 **B. My Best Friend Gave Me Help**

**Psalms 40:17 17**[**But I *am* poor and needy; *yet* the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-40-17/)

**2. His Friendship is proven through His Call**

**V-15 I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**

**\*\*He called me a friend and let me know . . .**

 **A. About His Books**

 **1. The Lord’s Book of Love**

 **2. The Lamb’s Book of Life**

 **B. About His Blood**

 **1. How it Atones**

 **2. How it’s Available**

 **C. About His Blessings**

 **1. There’s so many blessings from God!**

 **2. There’s so many blessing from Grace!**

**3. His Friendship is proven in His Choice**

**Verse 16 [16](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-15-16/%22%20%5Co%20%22View%20more%20info%20for%20John%2015%3A16) Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,**

 **A. The Lord says, “Come.” That’s His Choice.**

**John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:**

 **B. The Lord speaks Comfort. That’s His Choice.**

 **a. He speaks Comfort through the Spirit**

 **b. He speaks Comfort through the Scripture**

**\*\*The Bible says in Proverbs 18:24 that there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother!**

**\*\*He is closer than a brother because He is . . .**

 **1. A Heartfelt Friend**

 **2. A Holy Friend**

 **3. A Heroic Friend**

 **4. A Helpful Friend**

 **5. A Honest Friend**

**\*\*He really is The Best Friend You Could Ever Have**

**\*\*Let’s look at why He is the best friend you could ever have.**

**I. Because Jesus Offers A Loving Friendship**

 **A. A Friendship Based Upon Unconditional Love**

**John 13:1** **NOW before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.**

 **1. This Love Has Been Described**

**\*\* Through Christ this Love is Described as . . .**

 **a. Unspeakable**

 **b. Unending**

**Jeremiah 31:3 I have loved you with an everlasting love.**

 **c. Unselfish**

 **d. Unmerited**

**\*\*Love that is base on His grace – not earned or deserved!**

 **2. This Love Has Been Demonstrated**

**\*\*Through Calvary this Love is Demonstrated**

 **a. He Demonstrated His Love By Taking Your Spot**

 **b. He Demonstrated His Love By Taking Your Sin**

**II Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him!**

 **c. He Demonstrated His Love By Transforming Your Soul**

**The Revelation 5:1 To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood!**

 **3. This Love Has Been Displayed**

**\*\*Through Christians this Love is Displayed as**

 **a. A Love for the Savior**

 **b. A Love for the Sanctuary**

 **c. A Love for the Saints**

 **d. A Love for the Sinners**

 **B. A Friendship Based Upon Uncommon Loyalty**

**Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

 **1. Jesus is a Friend who is Lovingly Dependable**

 **a. In Our Problems**

 **b. In Our Peace**

 **c. In Our Prayers**

 **2. Jesus is a Friend who is Lovingly Devoted**

**\*\*He proves it in His . . .**

 **a. Abiding Presence**

**Matthew 28:20 [lo, I am with you alway,](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-28-20/%22%20%5Co%20%22View%20more%20translations%20of%20Matthew%2028%3A20)*[even](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-28-20/%22%20%5Co%20%22View%20more%20translations%20of%20Matthew%2028%3A20)*[unto the end of the world.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-28-20/%22%20%5Co%20%22View%20more%20translations%20of%20Matthew%2028%3A20)**

 **b. Assisting Presence**

**John 14:16 16**[**And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-14-16/)

 **c. Anchoring Presence**

**Matthew 28:18 18**[**And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-28-18/)

**\*\*Jesus Offers a Loving Friendship that includes an Unconditional Love and an Uncommon Loyalty!**

**II. Because Jesus Offers A Lasting Friendship**

**\*\*It’s a Lasting Friendship because of . . .**

 **A. His Readiness To Forever Forgive**

**Luke 22:34 - And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.**

**Luke 22:62 - And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.**

**Acts 2:14 - But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judæa, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:**

**\*\*When we confess our sins to Jesus, He forgives us of our sins, and it results in a long lasting friendship that results in . . .**

 **1. A Real Cleansing**

**I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**\*\* Forgiveness means “to lift up and take it away”**

**\*\* Jesus meets our greatest need, and He is the only one that can. That is why it becomes a lasting friendship!**

 **2. A Real Closeness**

**James 4:8 says to draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you!**

**\*\*His forgiveness and friendship will make you close to Him!**

 **3. A Real Concentration**

**\*\*When you are forgiven, your concentration changes!**

 **a. You have an appetite for the Spirit**

 **b. You have an ambition for the Savior**

 **B. His Reminders To Find Faith**

[**Hebrews 11:6**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-11-6/)**- But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

**\*\*If you want a lasting friendship with Jesus, then . . .**

 **1. Put Your Faith In God!**

 **2. Put Your Faith Into Grace!**

**\*\*Jesus Offers a Lasting Fellowship because He is ready to forgive and reminds us to have faith in Him!**

**III. Jesus Offers A Legitimate Friendship**

**\*\*Notice this friendship is legitimate because . . .**

 **A. He Offered a Legitimate Sacrifice!**

 **1. It was Voluntary**

 **a. His Sacrifice was not Forced**

**\*\*No one made him die on the cross. He chose to lay down His life so He could have a legitimate friendship with you!**

 **b. His Sacrifice was not Forged**

 **\* His Distinction was Real (The Son of God)**

 **\* His Death was Real**

 **2. It was Vicarious**

**\*\*Vicarious - performed or suffered by one as a substitute for another or to the benefit or advantage of another.**

**\*\*Why did He become our substitute to benefit us?**

 **a. Because He has a Genuine Care for Us**

 **b. Because He has a Genuine Charity for Us**

 **3. It was Victorious**

 **a. A Victory for Righteousness**

 **b. A Victory for Redemption**

 **c. A Victory for Resurrection**

 **B. He Offered a Legitimate Sharing**

 **Jesus offers a legitimate friendship that shares . . .**

 **1. His Love**

 **2. His Life**

 **3. His Lessons**

**\*\* A Legitimate Friendship and Relationship with Christ will cause you to be real close to His Love, His Life, His Lessons!**

 **C. He Offered a Legitimate Salvation**

**\*\*To have a Legitimate Friendship with Jesus, you must have a Legitimate Salvation through Jesus!**

 **1. There is a Conviction that is Real!**

 **2. There is a Calling that is Real!**

 **3. There is a Comforter that is Real!**

 **4. There is a Choice that is Real!**

**\*\*Jesus offers a Legitimate Friendship through a Legitimate Salvation, Sharing, and Salvation for whosoever will come unto Him and repent!**

**CLOSE**

**Illustration: Like most all-time great baseball players, Babe Ruth’s age started taking over his outstanding batting averages. Soon he was traded to the Boston Braves.   In one of his last games in Cincinnati, Babe Ruth began to falter.  He struck out and made several misplays that allowed the Reds to score five runs in one inning.  As the Babe walked toward the dugout, with his head down, there rose up from the stands an enormous storm of boos.  Then a wonderful thing happened. One little boy jumped over the railing, and with tears streaming down his cheeks he ran out to Babe and flung his arms around the his legs and held on tightly. Babe Ruth scooped him up, hugged him, and set him down again. Then the two of them walked off the field together. That day that little boy chose to be Babe Ruth’s best friend when no one else wanted to be his friend.**

**Application: Like Babe Ruth, once I was used up and wasted by sin.  That’s when Jesus leapt across the railing of Glory.   He came to where I was, took my hand in His and saved me by His grace.  Now we are walking across the field of this life together – headed home!  He isn’t ashamed of me!  He isn’t disappointed in me!  He just loves me and walks with me.  That is what I call a Friend!**

**1. Today He is offering you a Loving Friendship.**

**2. Today He is offering you a Lasting Friendship.**

**3. Today He is offering you a Legitimate Friendship.**

**\*\*Will you answer His call, take Him by the hand, and be His Friend?**

**\*\*He will be The Best Friend You Could Ever Have**