

Let Us Learn about Friendship from Jesus  
(John 15:12-15)

Introduction:

1. This morning we used these verses to introduce our study of 2 people who had friendship with Jesus -- a sinful woman (John 8) and the apostle Paul.
2. As we examine these verses this evening, "let us learn about friendship from Jesus."
  - a. Jesus showed why He is such a special friend.
  - b. He showed how we can be His friends.
  - c. He showed how His followers are to be friends to each other.

Discussion:

- I. JESUS SHOWED IN JOHN 15:13 WHY HE IS A SPECIAL FRIEND
  - A. According to what He said in this verse, Jesus showed how great His love is by giving His life on our behalf.
  - B. It was necessary for Jesus to lay down His life because of sin.
    1. The Bible shows:
      - a. in Romans 3:23 that sin is a widespread problem
      - b. in Romans 6:23a that death is the penalty for sin
      - c. in Romans 6:23b that the gift of eternal life is available through Christ.
    2. The gift of eternal life cost Jesus His life, and His love led Him to give His life.
  - C. The Lord's sacrifice is emphasized throughout the entire Bible.
    1. Genesis 3:15
    2. Psalm 22:1, 7-8, 16-18
    3. Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12
    4. Matthew 20:28
    5. 1 Timothy 1:12-15
    6. 1 Peter 2:21-25
  - D. To summarize, Jesus is a special friend because He gave His life so we could be forgiven of our sins, and we can have the hope of eternal life.
  - E. In addition to showing why He is such a special friend, . . .
- II. JESUS SHOWED IN JOHN 15:14 HOW WE CAN BE HIS FRIENDS
  - A. According to what Jesus said in this verse, we must obey His commandments (see Hebrews 5:9).
  - B. Just as the Lord's love for us led Him to give His life on our behalf, our love for Him will lead us to do His will (John 14:15, 23).
  - C. To receive forgiveness we must:
    1. be taught the Gospel (Mark 16:15; Romans 10:17)
    2. believe that Jesus is God's Son (John 3:16; 8:24)
    3. repent of our sins (Luke 13:3, 5)
    4. confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10)
    5. be baptized (Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27).
  - D. After saving us, the Lord wants us to serve Him faithfully (Revelation 2:10).
  - E. Finally, . . .
- III. JESUS SHOWED IN JOHN 15:12 HOW HIS FOLLOWERS ARE TO BE FRIENDS TO EACH OTHER
  - A. According to what the Lord said in this verse, we must love one another as He has loved us.
  - B. On this occasion Jesus had much to say about love (John 13:34-35; 15:17).

Conclusion:

1. Did you notice how Jesus connected love with friendship?
2. We have shown:
  - a. why Jesus is a special friend -- He loves us
  - b. how we can be friends to Jesus -- we are to love Him
  - c. how the Lord's followers are to be friends to each other -- we are to love one another.
3. Are you a friend of Jesus?