

THE FRIENDS OF JESUS

TEXT: John 15:12-17

PLACE: Jerusalem, upper room

TIME: Thursday evening

◆ Jesus' Friends Love Each Other, vs. 12,13

➔ The Command of love: "...that you _____ one another."

- Can love be commanded? Cp. Romans 5:5; 1 John 2:9; 1 John 5:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:9
- Where do we get the ability to obey this command?

➔ The Nature of love: "... just as _____ have loved you ..."

- How has Jesus loved us?
Cp. Philippians 2:5-10; 1 Corinthians 13

➔ The Supreme Sacrifice of love: "... that one _____ his life for his friends ..."

- So Jesus was willing to do for us.
- According to 1 Corinthians 13:3 can we do this in the wrong manner?
 - What must be present in such a sacrifice?
- Compare these verses: 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 John 2:14-18; 1 John 4:7-11

◆ Jesus' Friends Know Divine Truth, vs. 14,15

➔ "My _____ is the Gardener."

◆ The Vine Branches, vs. 2,3

➔ From slaves...

Who obey without understanding,

To Friends...

Who obey with understanding.

- How do we know the Master's way and plans?
 - What a privilege it is that God has revealed Himself and His will to us and has treated us not as slaves but as His Children!

◆ Jesus' Friends Are Chosen, vs. 16a

➔ This verse makes it very plain that our relation to Him as friends is dependent first and foremost upon His divine willingness to grace.
(cp. Romans 5:6,8; Ephesians 1:3-14.)

Paul Butler's commentary (College Press) helps us on this great topic - "Potentially all men are elected to be saved, but only 'In Christ.' Man then must exercise his freedom to choose whether he desires this election or not by coming 'into Christ' or remaining out of Him by obedience to His

commandments. Even among these first disciples they were chosen by election but they themselves had to choose whether or not they wished that election. One (Judas Iscariot) refused the divine election. Yes, the Shepherd always seeks the lost sheep before the sheep seeks the Shepherd, but the sheep must hear and follow the voice of the Shepherd to realize the safety bountifulness of the fold."

◆ Jesus' Friends Bear Fruit, vs. 16b

1st - that is our command... we should bear fruit. (See verses 2, 3)

"_____ branch in Me that does _____ bear fruit, He _____; and every branch that bears fruit, He _____ it, that it may bear _____ fruit."

2nd - that fruit should _____ - what does this mean?

◆ Jesus' Friends Have Their Prayers Answered, vs. 16c

- How should we ask? What does this mean?
 - "When we make our wishes and desires Christ's, and Christ's desires ours, we shall be satisfied." (Paul Butler, College Press)

OPPOSITION FROM THE WORLD (Pt. 1)

TEXT: John 15:18-25

NOTE: The vital union between Christ and His followers results in a fellowship of fruitfulness (vs. 12-17); a fellowship of confidence and communion (vs. 12-17); this union also results in a fellowship of suffering. (Paul Butler, College Press)

As best we can tell from history, the world managed to martyr eleven of twelve disciples. So Jesus prepares His followers for this truth: hostility from the world is the cost of discipleship.

◆ Reasons For The Hatred Of The World, vs. 16a

1 - Because We Are Not Of This World, vs. 18, 19

- What is meant by the term, "world"? Is this system against everything Godly? (cp. 1 John 5:19)
- Why does the world hate the believer? Cp. John 17:14; Philipians 2:15. Also look at John 3:19-20. Paul says of the believer, 2 Corinthians 2:15, 16.
- "Not of this world." Cp. Ephesians 5:11

◆ Because They Hated Our Lord Jesus, vs. 20

⇒ The world has redirected its hatred towards the Christian because he radiates Christ's love to the world.

- If we don't feel that opposition, maybe we should re-examine our boldness for Christ in this world!

◆ Because They Don't Know God, vs. 21-25

⇒ Whose choice is it to know or not or not to know God?

⇒ Why do men choose to not know God.

⇒ Do those who reject have an excuse? (cp. vs. 22)

- o The greatest sin - to have all the specifics of God's revelation and then reject it! Men are responsible for rejecting Christ and will answer before God at Judgment.

⇒ Let all beware ... even the Christian. (Remember Hebrews 6:4-6)