

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

JESUS IS YOUR FRIEND

John 15:15 “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

The dictionary defines a friend as “a person whom one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection.” A theological dictionary defines the word friend as “a person with whom one associates and for whom there is affection or personal regard.” There are different levels of friends, that is to say, a difference between intimate friends with whom one constantly shares and those who constitute a somewhat wider circle of persons who are on friendly terms but who are not in the inner circle. (Richardson Theological Word Book)

In John 15:15 Jesus spoke of the difference between being a “servant” and a “friend.” He said a “servant does not know what his master is doing.” A friend of His, however, Jesus says, knows not only what He is thinking but also the thoughts of His heavenly Father. Through Jesus you have an intimate friendship with Him and His Father.

The English phrase “soul-mate” comes to mind in how Jesus uses the word friend here in John 15. A soul mate is a “best friend,” one with whom you have an intimate knowledge, she or he is as close to you or perhaps even more so than a blood relative. Soulmates share their inner thoughts, fears and joys.

Jesus, in John 15, calls you, His friend. The hymn writer Joseph Scriven wrote, “What a Friend we have in Jesus.” In three verses he captures what it means to have Jesus as your friend:

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

JESUS SAYS IN JOHN 15:15, HE IS YOUR FRIEND!