

The Weekly Word (June 19, 2019)

Word: Friendship

Passage: John 15:9-17

Key Verse: This is my command: Love one another. (John 15:12)

Commentary:

Our God is an awesome God, and in comparison, we're tiny, sinful SPECKS in a vast universe who are HERE today and GONE tomorrow.

We shouldn't even put God and ourselves in the same sentence, much less in a friendship. It's crazy to think we could be friends with God.

Or is it?

In the same Old Testament that describes God as high and lifted up, we also read that both Abraham and Moses were described as friends of God. In fact, we read in Exodus 33 that the Lord spoke with Moses face to face, as a man speaks to a friend.(Exodus 33:11)

But even this face-to-face encounter is not as breathtaking as what Jesus says in John 15:15. Jesus Christ, Son of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, makes the statement to his disciples: *I will no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business.*

Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from the Father I have made known to you.

Copernicus shocked the world when he said that the sun and not the earth was the center of the solar system. Columbus shocked the world when he proved the earth was round rather than flat. But when Jesus said we were his friends, he shocked the whole universe, because in that one statement he radically redefined our relationship with the God of the universe.

It's one thing to say we are the clay and God is the Potter; or we are the sheep and he is the Shepherd; or we are the servants and he is the Master; or we are the children and he is our Father. But it's something else entirely to say we are honest-to-goodness friends with the God of the universe, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Imagine this! Jesus can be your friend. Whether he actually IS your friend is up to you. In John 15:16, Jesus tells us he has in effect already chosen us to be his friends. But whether we reciprocate is our call. That's why Jesus' question to us is, "WILL we be friends: Will we do our part to make this friendship work?"

So, CAN we be friends with Jesus? Certainly! WILL we be friends with Jesus? That's up to you and me.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the relationship and friendship that we have with you. Show us how to love one another in your name.

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