Friends with Jesus

John 15:12-25

Introduction:

I. Friends with Jesus – 15:12-17

A. The - Sine qua non – 15:12

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“This is My ﻿﻿commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Two reasons to use “Sine qua non”:

1. I needed a word that started with the letter “s.”

2. I wanted to emphasize the fact that – “loving one another” “loving each other” “loving every other believer” is the basic ingredient in friendship with Jesus.

Without that one ingredient – love for each and every, other believer – you cannot be a friend of Jesus. Some one might say, “But, You don’t know what he/she did/did not do. You don’t know what he/she said/did not say. You don’t know how he/she acted toward me.”

O.K. you’ve convinced me - I will love my brother/sister in some ways. But not in others. They don’t deserve it.

How about the phrase, “as I have loved you.” Oh, what does that mean? Jesus exhibited that love. Read on!

B. It was Shown – 15:13

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“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life for his friends.”

The ultimate demonstration of love is the ultimate sacrifice. There is no greater expression of love than that,

“For when we were still without strength, ﻿﻿in due time ﻿﻿Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ﻿But ﻿﻿God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:6-7)

C. It was Spoken – 15:14-15

1. The Condition for Friendship with Jesus – 15:14

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“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”

We cannot be a friend of Jesus unless we do what He commands us. In this context, what is that particular command? Verse 12 … “love one another”

2. Concept of Friendship with Jesus – 15:15

a. The Concept of Being a Servant (Slave.) 15:15a

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing;”

He does not know the Master’s plans. He obeys the master “because I said so”

b. The Concept of Being a Friend – 15:15b

“but I have called you friends, ﻿﻿for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

The friend is taken into the confidence of his friend and knows not only what he is to, but why he is to do it. He has much greater incentive to please his friend.

D. It was Set – 15:16

1. The Plan – 15:16a

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and ﻿﻿appointed you that you should go and bear fruit,”

He is not speaking here of salvation. He is speaking of service.

2. The Purpose – 15:16b

“and *that* your fruit should remain,”

3. The Plea – 15:16c

“that whatever you ask the Father ﻿﻿in My name He may give you.”

In the process of serving your friend, you may ask Him for anything and He will give it to you.

E. It was Seconded – 15:17

“These things I command you, that you love one another.”

II. Foes of Jesus – 15:18-25

A. Hatred for His friends – 15:18-22

1. Reasons for the Hate – 15:18-21

a. Intolerance – 15:18-20

1).They are Different – 15:18-19

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ﻿If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet ﻿﻿because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

2).They are Disciples – 15:20

“Remember the word that I said to you, ﻿﻿‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. ﻿﻿If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”

b. Ignorance – 15:21

“But ﻿﻿all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.”

2. Results of the Hatred – 15:22

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“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, ﻿﻿but now they have no excuse for their sin.”

B. Hatred for His Father – 15:23-25

1. This Hatred has a Focus – 15:23-24

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﻿﻿“He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them ﻿﻿the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have ﻿﻿seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”

2. This Hatred was Foretold – 15:25

“But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ﻿﻿*‘They hated Me without a cause.”*

Conclusion: