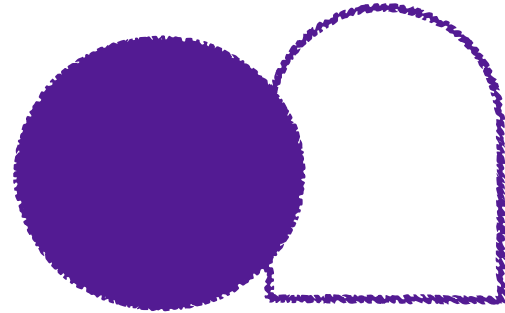


Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Having obtained this final victory, he is now able to grant eternal life to all who turn to him. Jesus is certainly a great and glorious king, but he is also a good and kind friend. He desires to share life with us and to walk with us every day. What a wonderful Savior we have!



Observations

John 15:12-17

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. **17** I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

A Friendship of Sacrificial Love

In the upper room, Jesus revealed his true motive for facing the cross: he did so out of his friendship for us.

A Friendship of Personal Intimacy

Even as we desire to pour out our hearts to Christ in prayer, so Christ also desires to share his heart with us.

A Friendship Jesus has Initiated

Jesus has initiated our friendship, and when we remember this premise, we can find encouragement in times of trial.

A Friendship of Shared Purpose

The purpose of our friendship is to learn the purposes of Christ and to share in his work, not the other way around.

Servants to Friends

This is one of the most profound shifts we can make in our spiritual development. While we will always remain the servants of Christ, we become his friends as we begin to share in his purposes.



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

Further Study *for a deeper understanding:*

The Gospel of John is unique in that it records Jesus' conversation with his disciples in the upper room with great detail. Read the entire discourse in **John chapters 13-17**.

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

Who was the first real friend you ever had?

Is it easier to think of yourself as Jesus' servant or his friend?

How does thinking of Jesus as a friend change your relationship with him?



Our next worship series will be entitled

**“Teach us to Pray”
from April 23 to May 28.**

Join us for this important series, and begin thinking now about what you can do to make room in your life to learn to pray as Jesus did.