

# GREATER LOVE

## JOHN 15:9-17

Text:

Introduction:

What do we mean when we use the word friend? I suppose if you were to ask 100 people this question you would probably get 100 different answers.

Some think a friend is someone that they can share anything with, while others may think it is someone who you can depend on in a difficult time; still others think a friend is someone who has something to give them.

Webster's defines "**friend**" as "**a favored companion.**" Thank God for our true friends! I am grateful to the friends that I have made. The Lord has allowed me to enjoy the friendship of some very special people. Some of them sit in this very room this morning!

I suppose all of these are true to a certain degree, but the Bible makes it very clear what a true friend is.

(Read Text)

This Friend Who is more special than any other I have ever met in this life, name is Jesus and I do not call Him my Friend, but He calls me His.

What a blessing it is for the Lord to consider you and I His friend.

Note:

## **1. DEFINITION**

There are some traits that identify friendship. They are:

A. Love

B. Loyalty

The depth of our love will determine our degree of loyalty.

The object of our love will determine the outcome of our loyalty.

## **2. DEMONSTRATION**

A. His Death was Voluntary

## **John 10:11-18**

<sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. <sup>13</sup> The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. <sup>15</sup> As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. <sup>18</sup> No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

## **B. His Death was Vicious**

You ask why his death was so vicious. Be sin is vicious.

### **Isaiah 52:14**

<sup>14</sup> As many were astonied at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

### **Isaiah 53:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? <sup>2</sup> For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. <sup>8</sup> He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. <sup>9</sup> And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup> He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

### **Psalms 22:1-31**

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?* <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. <sup>3</sup> But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup> Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. <sup>5</sup> They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. <sup>6</sup> But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. <sup>7</sup> All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, <sup>8</sup> He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. <sup>9</sup> But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts. <sup>10</sup> I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly. <sup>11</sup> Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help. <sup>12</sup> Many bulls have compassed me: strong *bulls* of

Bashan have beset me round. <sup>13</sup>They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion. <sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. <sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. <sup>16</sup>For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. <sup>17</sup>I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me. <sup>18</sup>They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. <sup>19</sup>But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. <sup>20</sup>Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. <sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

## C. His Death was Victorious

### 1. He paid the sin debt in full

#### **John 19:30**

<sup>30</sup>When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

### 2. He rose from the dead three days later

#### **Acts 2:23-24**

<sup>23</sup>Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: <sup>24</sup>Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

#### **Romans 4:25**

<sup>25</sup>Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

### 3. He's coming back some day as King of Kings and Lord of Lords

#### **Hebrews 9:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: <sup>28</sup> So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

### **3. DIRECTION**

#### **John 15:9-17**

<sup>9</sup> As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. <sup>10</sup> If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full. <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. <sup>15</sup> Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. <sup>16</sup> Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, that ye love one another.

## A. Proclamation

1. Obey His Commands
2. Love Others
3. Produce Fruit

## B. Purpose

1. That His joy might remain in you
2. And that your joy might be full

## C. Principle

In order for our joy to be full His joy needs to be in us. In other words there is no real joy apart from the Lord.

Close:

We all can sing “What a Friend we have in Jesus,” but would He say that we are His friend?

Do you know Him, not just know about Him?

Those who are Christians today, are we doing the things He has asked us to do?