

The Life Challenge

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Glorify His Name
Title: The Transforming Friendship
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Date: March 12, 2023



WARM - UP

1. Which "I AM" statement of Jesus is most meaningful to you and why?
I am the Bread of Life - John 6:35 / I am the Light of the world - John 8:12; 9:5
I am the Gate - John 10:7, 9 / I am the Good Shepherd - John 10:11, 14
I am the Resurrection and the Life - John 11:25
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life - John 14:6 / I am the Vine - John 15:1; 5
2. Why have friends been important in your life? What is the value of friendship?

Now read the Text (John 15:1-17)

DISCUSSION

1. What disciplines are required to 'remain' in Jesus?
2. What is the purpose of pruning? How have you experienced the pruning of the Father in your life?
3. Bearing fruit is the natural result of remaining connected to the vine (Jesus). What is the fruit that we are to bear? See also Galatians 5:22.
4. What is the significance of Jesus calling his disciples (us) friends? What is the qualification to being a friend of Jesus?

DISCUSSION

5. What is Jesus' expectation of his friends?

6. What is required in friendship? How do we love one another? What should friendship in the community of faith (the church) look like?

7. Discuss James Houston's statement, "Our relationship with God can never be right when our relationships with other people are wrong." do you agree? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

What step could you take to strengthen 'remaining' in Jesus?

Are there friends with which you need to make amends as a means of 'remaining' in Jesus?