

I'VE FOUND A FRIEND
(John 15:13-15)

I.His great love for us.

A.I've found a friend, o such a friend He loved me ere I knew Him; He drew me with the cords of love, And thus He bound me to Him; And round my heart still closely twine; those ties which naught can sever; For I am His and He is mine, Forever and forever.

B.I don't think it is a coincidence that the first thing Mr. Small wrote about in his song about Jesus our Friend is the love Jesus has for us.

C.It fits in exactly with the text we notice earlier (John 15:13).

1.The love Jesus has for us ought to cause us to desire His friendship above all other friendships.

2.Our Lord desired our friendship so much that He was willing to die for us to obtain that friendship (1 John 3:16).

D.Mr. Small wrote that Jesus loved him before he ever knew Jesus.

1.It is a great wonder to me that our Lord loved us so much before we ever came into existence that He was willing to die for us.

2.1 Peter 1:19-20.

3.It is difficult for me to imagine a love that begins before we can ever know the object of that love or whether the object of our love will return our love.

4.Jesus loved us before we came into existence and even loves us when we don't love Him.

E.In that list of qualities we look for in a friend, one of them was selfless.

1.There has never been one who walked the face of this earth as selfless as Jesus.

2.Everything He did was for others.

a.He always sought to do the will of the Father (John 9:4; John 6:38).

b.Jesus gave up the beauty of heaven and equality with God the Father for us (Philippians 2:5-8).

F.The wonderful thing about the love of Christ is that He will never come to a point where He no longer loves us.

1.Mr. Small referred to this as those ties which naught can sever.

2.This does not mean that Jesus will not pass a sentence of destruction upon us.

a.Far from that.

b.Jesus us will, as our Judge, do exactly what is right and just.

3.It does mean, that as long as we live, Jesus wants us with Him as His friend (Romans 8:35-39).

G.We should seek to be a friend to Jesus because of His great love for us.

II.His great sacrifice for us.

A.I've found a friend, o such a friend, He bled, He died to save me; and not alone the gift of life, but His own self He gave me. Naught that I have my own I call, I hold it for the Giver; my heart, my strength, my life my all, Are His and His forever.

B.Notice those words, He bled, He died to save me.

- 1. We noticed in the previous point about the love of Jesus being shown by dying for us.
- 2. We aren't going to belabor this point but I do want us to think about it.
- C. Jesus didn't jump in front of a bullet for us.
- D. Jesus didn't stand in front of a firing squad for us.
- E. Jesus didn't hang from a gallows for us.
- F. Each of those forms of death would have been quick and relatively painless compared to what He did endure.
- G. As all of us hopefully know, Jesus endured a terrible, agonizing death on the cross.
 - 1. Did you notice how Paul worded it in Philippians 2:8?
 - 2. Notice what the Hebrews writer said (Hebrews 5:8).
- H. In Philippians, Paul emphasized the great sacrifice Jesus made by saying that Jesus became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
- I. The Hebrews writer emphasized that Jesus suffered.
- J. I've always found it amazing that the New Testament does not go into detail about the suffering endured by Jesus on that cross.
 - 1. We aren't told anything about what scourging was like.
 - 2. We aren't told anything about what the body of Jesus went through while He was hanging from that cross.
- K. One of the qualities we look for in friends according to that list is inspiration.
 - 1. We want someone in our lives who inspires us to better things.
 - 2. Brethren and friends, if Jesus suffering on that cross does not inspire us to live and be better, then there is nothing on the face of the earth that will.

III. His great guidance He provides.

- A. I've found a friend, o such a friend, all power to His is given. To guard me on my onward course, and bring me safe to heaven. The eternal glories gleam afar, to nerve my faint endeavor. So now to watch, to work, to war, and then to rest forever.**
- B. Jesus has definitely been given all authority (Matthew 28:18).
 - 1. Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus, who upholds all things by the power of His word, desires friendship with you?
 - 2. He has authority over all things and He wants to be your friend.
- C. Despite His having all authority, He seeks to guide each one of us to heaven.
- D. Matthew 16:24.
 - 1. Jesus calls us to follow Him.
 - 2. He does not leave us to blindly try and follow Him.
 - 3. He has left commands for us to find Him (Matthew 7:7).
 - 4. He has never commanded us to do something without also giving us the means to follow the command.
- E. He left guidance for us in His word.
- F. When you and I read His will for us, He is guiding us to Him.
 - 1. Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11).
 - 2. A shepherd guides his flock to safety.
 - 3. We all know the great shepherd Psalm (Psalm 23).
 - 4. This is the guidance our Lord gives us.
- G. What is wonderful about His guidance is that it is true and right and not just

said to please us.

1.The Greek philosopher Plutarch once said, “I don’t need a friend who changes when I change, and nods when I nod. My shadow does that much better.”

2.Our Lord guides us with truth that we need to hear whether it hurts our feelings or not.

3.One of the qualities of a friend in our list is that of being straightforward.

4.Jesus is that if He is anything else.

5.Jesus is not here to make us feel better about ourselves as we are, but make us better so we can feel better about ourselves.

H.Our Lord knows what we need and He provides it for us through His word and the example that He set with His life .

1.John 10:10.

2.He wants us to lead an abundant life that is good for us and leads us to the best life, eternal life with Him.

IV.His great devotion for us.

A.I’ve found a friend, o such a friend, so kind, and true, and tender. So wise a Counselor and Guide, so mighty a Defender. From Him who loves me now so well, what power my soul can sever? Shall life or death, or earth or hell? No, I am His forever.

B.Notice all the things Mr. Small pointed out that Jesus is for us.

1.Counselor and Guide.

2.Mighty Defender.

3.Kind, true, tender towards us.

C.I don’t know about you, but I’m not always such a great friend to Jesus.

1.I don’t always listen to His counsel or follow His guidance.

2.I don’t always allow Him to defend me as I should, thinking I can handle things on my own.

3.I am not always kind to Him, true to Him, or tender to Him as I should be.

4.More than likely you are in that same boat as well.

D.How many friends would we have if we treated them as we treat the best Friend we could ever have?

1.We would probably be pretty lonely people wouldn’t we?

2.It seems we often treat those who are as weak or weaker than we are, better than the One who died for us.

E.Despite that fact, Jesus, our Friend, is devoted to us.

1.We know He sacrificed Himself for us.

2.But He is still devoted to us.

a.He is our Advocate (1 John 2:1).

b.He calls for our cares (1 Peter 5:7).

c.He has promised to never forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

F.He devoted His physical life to us while on earth, and is continually devoted to us through His activities in heaven.