

Praying Through This Week 24th May 2021



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
John 15:13-15

- What comes to mind when you think of friendship? Loyalty, trust, laughter, fun, tears, joy?
- Are you able to think of the times you have called a friend – in times of sorrow, joy, hardship?

Whether you relate to God or to Jesus in prayer...**Exodus 33:11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.** Jesus invites us into a special relationship with him: he calls us *friend* (John 15:15).

- Perhaps spend some time reflecting on this and if you are able to, thank God for His friendship and for the friends He has blessed you with.
- Are we able to lean on Him as we would our earthly friends? We may sometimes be let down by our friends but God is a rock: **Psalm 18:2 My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.**

Jesus' life on earth was based on love. Through love comes friendship. Jesus' closest friends were Martha, Mary and Lazarus. His disciples were his friends. He ate with them, drank with them, had fun with them, laughed with them, cried with them, comforted them. He invites us to do the same with him.

- Perhaps try spending the coming week in the company of Jesus as you would a friend. At the end of the week, reflect on the experience.
- Can you allow Jesus to become your new "best friend"?

As John Scriven wrote (1855):

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!*

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