

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. (v4)

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son & our Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 15: 9-17

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments & abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, & that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. & I appointed you to go & bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Consider *John 13:1-20*, esp. *v34, 10:18, & 14:31* (cf. *1 John 3:16*). How is laying down one’s life not merely intensity of feeling/affection but the means, or way, of loving? See *John 3:16; Acts 5:41; Romans 8:31-39; 2 Corinthians 11:7-11; 22-33; Philippians 3:4-14*
2. *v16* recalls *vv2, 4, 5, 8* regarding fruit. How is Jesus preparing his disciples for what comes at his Ascension? See *Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Review the Wikipedia article on Aristotle’s kinds of friendship < <https://bit.ly/3eUTR4Q> >. List 10-12 people you interact with regularly & frequently (outside of family). What kind of friendship do you have with each? What sense of friendship do you think fits *vv13-15*?
4. The Bible is clear that we don’t choose, elect, decide, find, choose, etc. Jesus, but that he chooses us. How did he choose you? How have you received his choice faithfully in your everyday life, moving from simple trust, to knowing him personally, to giving back your own allegiance/loyalty? See *John 6:70, 13:18, (15:27), Romans 8:38, Ephesians 1:4ff, Colossians 3:12, 1 Peter 2:4, Small Catechism: Creed, Art. 3, Baptism 3; SC available* <bookofconcord.org>

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The ArtofManliness.com podcast #702 discusses the difficulty of making & maintaining friendships in adulthood. Give it a listen & check out the links below “Mentioned in Podcast.” (Note: *this isn’t an introvert vs. extrovert thing*)
<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/making-friends-in-adulthood/>
6. Look up the hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (ELW 742/LBW 439). How does this depiction/description of Jesus help you introduce your friends in everyday life to your friend Jesus?

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Series: Thrive on the Vine

05.09.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Friendship

Your momma wants your own friendship with Jesus, not hers.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. (*v15b*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Those who love me will keep my word, & my Father will love them, & we will come to them & make our home with them. (*John 14:23*)

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