

FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS

As preached on Sunday, September 29th

Read: John 15:12-17

1. How did you picture Jesus when you were a child? Did you think of him as your friend?
2. Why do you think so many adults have abandoned the understanding of Jesus as friend?
3. Look back at v.15... what is the difference between a servant and a friend according to Jesus? Why do you suppose he emphasizes this so strongly in his time with the disciples?
4. Look back at v.14... "*You are my friends if you do what I command.*" Is this friendship we have with Jesus conditional? What is another way of understanding this statement?
5. In v.16 Jesus says he has chosen us as friends that we might bear fruit that lasts. What does that mean? What fruit is he talking about?
6. What do you think... Could it be that one of the most effective ways to follow Jesus is being a friend to others? Agree or Disagree?
7. Take time this week to revisit your friendship with Jesus. How can you ensure that in the midst of learning new roles Jesus plays you don't lose your friendship with him?
8. Take time this week to rethink your friendships with others. How can you expand your circle of true friends? How can you deepen the love you share in your current friendships?