



3. Will you be my friend?

“You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.” (*Dale Carnegie*)

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

Last week my friend and mentor Rajkumar Ramachandran, in his usual insightful and spirit-filled way spoke about being a friend of Jesus.

In today’s reflection, I will expand on a couple of Raj’s excellent insights.

1. If you follow Jesus, He considers you to be His friend

Jesus called His disciples “friends.” That I believe includes you and me.

2. You and I have the ability to end this friendship

Strangely, you and I have the power to terminate this friendship. Jesus says, “*You are my friends, if you do what I command.*” (John 15:14) There it is, you and I can end the friendship by not being obedient to His commands.

3. Friendship with Jesus has a purpose and benefits

Not only is this friendship strange, it is uniquely a one-sided friendship initiative for achieving a purpose.

Let’s hear the complete deal in Jesus’ own words. After calling his disciples friends and mentioning the condition of obedience, Jesus goes on to say, “*You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit. So that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*” (John 15:16)

Yes, we have been chosen and appointed as Jesus’ friends to achieve the purpose of bearing good and lasting fruit. Being obedient to His commands and accepting His call is all that is required from us.

Did you notice the last part of the verse? Yes, Jesus offers us an irresistible promise. That as His friend, we will receive whatever we ask God the Father in His name!

4. Can Jesus count on our friendship?

Raj, mentioned in his talk that one of the most loved hymns that Christians sing is “What a friend we have in Jesus!” He then asked. “But, can Jesus sing this song with the words by filling in your name or mine? For example, can Jesus sing, “What a friend I have in Jaywant?” Something for each one of us to think about.

5. Can we become an enemy of Jesus?

Raj also posed another unusual question. “Being a friend or even ending our friendship by disobedience is fine. But can anyone become an enemy of Jesus?”

I had never thought about that. Raj, then quoted James 4:4b, "... anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

Yes, by flirting with the world we can become enemies of Jesus. Loving the things of the world will logically lead us to the valley of disobedience that can end our friendship with Jesus.

To me, this price of obedience seems very small price to pay to be the friend of the Creator of this universe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- We see a great example of friendship in the Bible of David and Jonathan in I Samuel 18. What principles of friendship can we learn from their example?
- Paul and Barnabas had a divine call and their friendship and partnership bore much fruit in Cyprus and Turkey. But, their relationship was unfortunately human leading to 'sharp disagreement' and a parting. What were some of the human causes for their friendship ending?
- What are three things you can use that will make Jesus sing, "What a friend I have in (insert your name)?"

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- Ask questions: bystillwaters.always@gmail.com
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/JaywantMichael>

DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHO YOUR FRIEND IS?

A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you. (**Elbert Hubbard**)

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends leave footprints in your heart. (*Eleanor Roosevelt*)

If you go looking for a friend, you're going to find they're very scarce. If you go out to be a friend, you'll find them everywhere. (*Zig Ziglar*)

If two friends ask you to judge a dispute, don't accept, because you will lose one friend; on the other hand, if two strangers come with the same request, accept, because you will gain one friend. (*St. Augustine*)