**What A Friend We Have In Jesus**

(John 15:13-17 KJV)

*13Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14Ye are my friends if ye do the things which I command you. 15No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends: for all things that I heard from my Father I have made Known unto you. 16Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17These things I command you, that ye love one another.*

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e all need friends, but few understand the basics about forming quality friendships. A true friend is someone whom we enjoy mutual affection, interests and respect for. The best friends are those who are helpers in times of trouble. Those who are our advocates when we find ourselves in need are the kind of friends that are worth their weight in gold. Solomon once wrote, "A brother is born for times of adversity, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother —that is God our closest companion." (Proverbs 18:24 KJV)

We all at some time or another need to work on our horizontal friendships. In fact when we look at the biblical perspectives concerning friendship, and we'll understand that we need deep meaningful friendships with other people.

In other words, we have to work on building friendships. Do you work on building friendships with others or let it happen? Well, let me hurriedly say, "true definition of friendship is not unilateral." In this modern day era many are searching for friends who will help them, meet their need, be a friend to them, listen to their problems, be sympathetic and love them unconditionally without countering the same protocol. This confirm that deep within their hearts, they are seeking a selfish friendship in which they receive friendship—but often this is a one-sided affair.

Ironically, some people suffer cognitively in finding friends and often people do not find the friends they want and remain lonely, lonesome, and lingering. And I sometimes wonder why? Well, some don't want to sacrifice what it takes to gain a friend! But, most importantly each of us need a vertical friendship. This is a sound, sacred, sacrificing relationship with our Creator and God. So, I want to labor on the subject—"What A Friend We Have In Jesus," to help us thoroughly understand why he calls us His friends in the text!

1. **No One Gave More Compassion Than Christ:**

(John 15:13 KJV)

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

In this scripture Jesus has opened the way for a new kind of compassionate relationship among His disciples. He refers to them as His friends, "Not servants". At this point in His ministry the love of Jesus had broken down the wall which separated the Master from the slave, and the rich from the poor. But also a love that later was expressed even more, when Jesus laid down His life for His friends and those friends are us as Christians.

Moreover, the scripture says *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

That’s exactly what Jesus did for us!

(Isaiah 53:5 KJV)

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed:*

He was wounded, sounds like such a simple statement. But do we really grasp the significance of these words? So often we think of the Hollywood version of these events, "The Passion of Christ" but, a film can't fathom exactly what Jesus endured or portray what really happened. Jesus was always compassionate for others—a true FRIEND!