Jesus and John the Beloved

Note Taker

John emphasized his role as an eyewitness to the Incarnation. God isn't someone far off, distant, unknowable. In the person of Jesus, John had seen God with his own eyes, touched God with his own hands, walked beside God on Palestine's rugged trails. When false teachers trot out philosophical arguments to prove that God could not become man, and that no human being could share substance with the great God, John had a simple answer. "I'm not talking arguments. I was there. I'm talking what I've seen and heard." You and I need to have this same kind of confidence. Not that we see and touch Jesus as John did, in the flesh. But today you and I can experience Jesus too. We can know the peace He brings when we are overcome with anxiety. We can sense His leading. We can feel conviction and know a joy that only the Holy Spirit brings. When we know Jesus in this deep, personal sense—when we experience Christ—we KNOW. The most logical-sounding arguments of scoffers have no compelling force when we know, by personal experience, that Jesus is God. [The 365 Day Devotional Commentary]

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By Rev Lonny R. Bower
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What value do you place on friendships? Have you ever considered God's stance on the matter? What does it really mean to be a friend and is there such a thing as "casual" friends? For the next few weeks, we will be talking about the friends of Jesus. I hope that we will come away with a godly perspective of genuine friendships. However, if we should only change our perspective without drawing closer to Christ ourselves then it will all be for not. Everything we do and all we strive to be should have Christ at the center. Our ultimate goal should be to grow closer to Christ for He is the epitome of a true friend. Do you have a friend that would do anything for you – without judgment or question? Jesus is more. Do you think that you would willingly lay down your life for any of your friends? Jesus did. Would you pursue a person that wants nothing to do with you in hopes that they will ultimately invite your friendship? Jesus is in pursuit. Would you share your inheritance with those who mocked, ridiculed and cursed you? Jesus has and will. His love and friendship is unconditional and if we could just figure out how to tap into it and emulate it, we would be a blameless, holy, Christlike (in the truest sense) people.

I. Friendship and Intimacy – John 1:29, 35-40; 1 John 1:1-3 God's Word Ed. 1 (GWT)

[29]John saw Jesus coming toward him the next day and said, "Look! This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

[35]The next day John was standing with two of his disciples. [36]John saw Jesus walk by. John said, "Look! This is the Lamb of God." [37]When the two disciples heard John say this, they followed Jesus. [38]Jesus turned around and saw them following him. He asked them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which means "teacher"), "where are you staying?" [39]Jesus told them, "Come, and you will see." So they went to see where he was staying and spent the rest of that day with him. It was about ten o'clock in the morning. [40]Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two disciples who heard John and followed Jesus.

1 John 1:1-3[1]The Word of life existed from the beginning. We have heard it. We have seen it. We observed and touched it. [2]This life was revealed to us. We have seen it, and we testify about it. We are reporting to you about this eternal life that was in the presence of the Father and was revealed to us. [3]This is the life we have seen and heard. We are reporting about it to you also so that you, too, can have a relationship with us. Our relationship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

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II. Friendship and Responsibility – John 19:26-27; 1 John 3:16-18 (GWT)

[26]Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there. He said to his mother, "Look, here's your son!" [27]Then he said to the disciple, "Look, here's your mother!" From that time on she lived with that disciple in his home.

1 John 3:16-18 [16]We understand what love is when we realize that Christ gave his life for us. That means we must give our lives for other believers. [17]Now, suppose a person has enough to live on and notices another believer in need. How can God's love be in that person if he doesn't bother to help the other believer? [18]Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words.

III. Friendship and Faith – John 20:1-9; 1 John 5:10-13 (GWT)

[1]Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary from Magdala went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb's entrance. [2]So she ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved. She told them, "They have removed the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." [3]So Peter and the other disciple headed for the tomb. [4]The two were running side by side, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and came to the tomb first. [5]He bent over and looked inside the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there but didn't go inside. [6]Simon Peter arrived after him and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there. [7]He also saw the cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't lying with the strips of linen but was rolled up separately. [8]Then the other disciple, who arrived at the tomb first, went inside. He saw and believed. [9]They didn't know yet what Scripture meant when it said that Jesus had to come back to life.

1 John 5:10-13 [10]Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them. Those who don't believe God have made God a liar. They haven't believed the testimony that God has given about his Son. [11]This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is found in his Son. [12]The person who has the Son has this life. The person who doesn't have the Son of God doesn't have this life. [13]I've written this to those who believe in the Son of God so that they will know that they have eternal life.