



May 9, 2021 John 15: 9-17 & Acts. 10: 44-48

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### **ENTERING THE SCENE:**

Henri Nouwen puts it this way. “Friendship is one of the greatest gifts a human being can receive. It is a bond beyond common goals, common interests, or common histories. It is a bond stronger than sexual union can create, deeper than a shared fate can solidify, and even more intimate than the bonds of marriage or community. Friendship is being with the other in joy and sorrow, even when we cannot increase the joy or decrease the sorrow. It is a unity of souls that gives nobility and sincerity to love. Friendship makes all of life shine brightly. Blessed are those who lay down their lives for their friends.” We come to the reading from John in the time after Easter and before Pentecost. Try to imagine the disciples flashing back to that night when they first heard this. Can you see the “now I get it” looks on their faces?

### **John 15:9-17**

9 As the **Father** has **loved** me, so have I **loved** you: continue in my **love**. 10 If you keep my **commandments**, you shall **abide** in my **love**; even as I have kept my **Fathers commandments**, and **abide** in his **love**. 11 These things have I **spoken** unto you, that my **joy** might **remain** in you, and that your **joy** might be **full**. 12 This is my **commandment**, That you **love** one another, as I have **loved** you. 13 Greater **love** has no one than this that they **lay down** their **life** for their **friends**. 14 you are my **friends**, if you do whatever I **command** you. 15 Henceforth I call you not **servants**; for the **servant** knows not what his **lord** does: but I have called you **friends**; for all things that I have **heard** of my **Father** I have made **known** unto you. 16 You have not **chosen** me, but I have **chosen** you, and **ordained** you, that you should go and bring forth **fruit**, and that your **fruit** should **remain**: that whatsoever you shall ask of the **Father** in my **name**, he may give it you. 17 These things I **command** you that you **love** one another.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** How does knowing you are a friend of Jesus help you to love even those who want you dead as he did?

**PRAYER:** Lover Jesus, you would say these words shortly before you died knowing full well I could not understand them until I stood on the truth of the Resurrection. When you greeted me with “Peace be with you” even after I ran from you that terrible day. Now I am beginning the glimpse what you meant when you said to love others as you love me. Please help me have the strength to keep on trying to love as you love. Amen