

MARCH 22

Communion is...

Communion is friendship. Oh the sweet blessing of time around the table with Jesus.

Read Matthew 26:48-50

I grew up singing the hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” and its words still ring true in my heart today, often reminding me of the depth and loyalty of Jesus’ friendship.

As we read verses 48-50, our hearts can’t help but be pierced by Judas, one of Jesus’ closest friends and how he betrayed Him. It pierces deeply when we see Judas use the affectionate kiss of friendship to actually wound Jesus with betrayal.

I have often wondered what was brewing in Judas’ mind, like what motivated him to do such a thing? Was he thinking that this would force Jesus to rise up and use His power to take over this brutal government and legalistic religious system? I know he didn’t think things would end the way they did as obviously, Jesus’ death was not the outcome he was hoping for (see Matthew 27:1-4). Although I can’t clearly discern his motives, I do know that friendship and pride got all mixed up for Judas.

However, even though we can clearly see the whole story now and know that Jesus’ warned Judas of this ending, I am careful not to point the finger at him too quickly. Because, I know that my affection for Jesus and my pride can get mixed up too. I can be singing with my hands in affectionate worship and yet deep within me be resistant to His plans all at the same time. I can be speaking of how much I love Jesus and yet at the same time be walking away from His Truth in another area of my life. Can you relate?

In verse 50, Jesus still calls Judas friend, saying, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Amazing! What a friend we have in Jesus!

But as I ponder this, I want Jesus to know that He has a true friend in me too. That I will not betray Him. I want Him to know that I would have been the disciple that night who truly listened to Him, heeded His instructions and did not fall away. I want to be a true friend to Jesus!

In my humanity I know that I am prone to be just like Judas, getting it all mixed up. But as I come to communion table, I can build friendship with Jesus and grow in the grace to be a genuine friend to Him, as He is to me.

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, I am so thankful for Your friendship, what a friend I have in You! I want to be a true friend too. They say that in every relationship one person loves more. That would be You. But I want to learn to love more. **As I sit at the communion table with You, help me grow in my expression of friendship to You.** May it be genuine and full of loyalty.



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