



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions Teen Heroes of the Bible Series, Lesson 19

Lesson Title: John – Friend to the End

Take Home Point: Jesus is your friend. Love him to the end.

Warm-Up:

"What are friends for?" Have you ever heard anyone say that? It is most often a rhetorical question, given in response to heartfelt thanks for an act that seems above and beyond what might be expected of another person. I've had the opportunity of saying it to someone else on occasion; when it is said to me, it always brings me joy to know that I get to serve a friend in some way that demonstrates my caring for them, whether just because or in a time of need. It is gratifying to know that I can be there whatever the circumstance – to help carry a burden, to be there when no words suffice, to do something special because you know what brings another person comfort or happiness. These are the acts of a true friend.

Read: John 1:35-39, 13:21-25, 19:26-27; 1 John 4:10-11; Revelation 2:10b

Observation (What happened?):

From John 1, where were John and Andrew when they met Jesus and followed him?

According to 1 John 4:10-11, what is our prime motivator for loving others?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think John refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved?"

Why do you think John stayed at the cross while Jesus died?

Insight:

What does it mean to be a friend of Jesus? Actually, Jesus tells us in John 15:14-15: "*You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants...I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*" (NIV) Friends are honest with each other. They communicate with each other, listening and responding. So often we view God as a strict, unbending Master who tells us what to do and not do without caring what we have to say or how we feel. Nothing could be further from the truth. Remember how Abraham sometimes spoke to God? Yet, in James 2:23, he is called God's friend. Job, Moses, David, Habakkuk – these men were direct and honest with God, yet he did not rebuke them for it. In fact, he responded to their act of friendship by being direct and honest in return. That didn't necessarily mean that his response was what was expected or desired, but it did mean he listened to them. We can have the same relationship with Jesus. He eagerly seeks you and me to be his friend, his confidant, his hands and feet and righteousness to the world around us.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you show Jesus every day that you are his friend?

Name one person you know who needs you to be a friend to them this week. Find a way to show them friendship and caring in the name of Jesus Christ.

Kingdom Quest year 2