

How to Be Jesus' Friend

You are My friends if you do what I command you.

JOHN 15:14

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Most people assume
everyone who believes in Jesus
is automatically His friend.

But Jesus uses a word
that means far more
than casual closeness.

You may not know this about Jesus-
He used two different words
for "friend."

When He spoke to Judas,
He used *hetairos* -
a companion,
someone nearby,
but not united in heart.
(Matt. 26:50)

But in the Upper Room,
Jesus used philos -
the word for beloved friend,
trusted companion,
one who shares the heart
and purpose
of another.

It is the same word
the Greek Scriptures use
when they call Abraham
"the friend of God."
(Isa. 41:8; 2 Chron. 20:7)

Jesus is placing His disciples
in that same relationship.

Abraham trusted God
enough to obey Him.
Moses walked with God
"as a man speaks with his friend."
(Ex. 33:11)

Jesus gathers all of this
into one invitation:

"I have called you friends,
for everything I heard from My Father
I have made known to you."
John 15:15

Servants obey
without understanding.
Friends obey
because they understand.

Servants follow orders.
Friends share the heart
behind the orders.

Servants work for the master.
Friends walk with Him.

And then Jesus gives the mark
of this friendship:

"You are My friends
if you do what I command you."

Not obedience
to earn His love.
Obedience
that grows from His love.

Not obedience
to become His friend.
Obedience
that reveals
you already are.

Friendship with Jesus
is like a child
who first helps his father in the garden
because he is told to,
but later helps
because he loves
what his father loves.
Duty becomes delight.
Obedience becomes affection.

This is the friendship
Jesus offers.

A Friend who lays down His life.
A Friend who reveals the Father.
A Friend who carries your weakness.
A Friend who intercedes for you.
A Friend who never leaves you.
A Friend who loves you to the end.

And obedience
is how we walk
in that friendship.

Not to earn His love-
but because His love
has already taken root
in us.