

Chris Murphy

April 7th, 2024

Scripture: Luke 24: 13-35

Sermon Title: Friendship With the Risen Jesus

Prayer...

Introduction: My friendship with Trevor Hudson (Professor, Mentor, but most importantly colleague and friend)

Trevor's talk on Renewing Our Friendship with God inspires me every year. I also love talking to people about seeing Jesus as one's friend.

Idea that there are different metaphors for God: Father or Mother-parent to child, King and soldiers or subjects, Master and servant, teacher and disciples, but a primary way of viewing our relationship with God is friendship.

Leslie Weatherhead in a book called The Transforming Friendship says the heart of Christian faith is friendship.

We are invited in this season of Easter to renew our friendship with Christ:

- Come to Christ in our current reality. Our current reality is Christ's home address. Accept where I am without judgment.
- Come to know Christ through the Gospels. Keep company with Jesus in the Gospels. Jesus is a living reality not an abstraction.
- Coming to partner in God's family business, which is the transforming and healing of this world. We experience some consolation and challenge or attraction and resistance to this invitation. This is a normal dynamic in our relationship with God. We are invited into the mystery of the mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him.

Praying As God's Friend:

- Tell God the truth. What makes for good friendship makes for good prayer.

- Giving God a chance to respond. We share with God to give God access to my life.
- Sometimes we meet with God in silence. Desmond Tutu was a contemplative and activist. He took an 8 day silent retreat each year. Trevor's picture of silent prayer or contemplative prayer is warming ourselves by the divine fire. You may feel cold initially but as you sit by the fire you warm up and feel God's love.

Biblical Story of Road to Emmaus:

- Jesus journeys with Mary and Cleopas, married couple on the road to Emmaus. (Nice image for married people. Also, nice image of Jesus with his friends.)
- They have the intuition that the stranger on the road is actually Jesus.

- They have their heart stirred by the Scriptures. Whole sermon on that one. Spending time in God's word is a wonderful way to build a friendship with the Risen Jesus.
- Jesus is known in the breaking of the bread. We see the power of the Lord's Supper and the way this image continues to shape our practice of communion. When we share the Lord's Supper, we participate in our friendship with Jesus. Reminds me of our recent Maundy Thursday service. Nice to see how we see the disciples in person as characters around the table. You start to feel how Jesus was a friend to his disciples. Remember Jesus told his disciples that he saw them no longer as servants but as friends.

Question to Ponder during this Easter Season.

- Do I wish to see Jesus as my friend? Do I like this image of my relationship with God? Remember this Risen Jesus is still alive

today. He is still risen from the dead and he desires a personal relationship with each one of us.

- How might I renew my friendship with Jesus? Prayer and conversation. Listening-spiritual practices that feed my soul (nature, Scripture, prayer, service, rituals like the Lord's Supper).
- As we journey on the road to Jesus like the married couple on the road to Emmaus, we can expect Jesus to meet us and nourish us with his presence, just as he provided for Mary and Cleopas when he joined them for a meal. I bet the bread they ate that night tasted really good because they were treasuring the experience of being with Jesus.

May this season of Easter be a time for all of us to deepen our friendship with the Risen Jesus.

Let us pray...

Jesus, thank you for walking with us on this road of life. Help us to invite you into our homes to rest and commune with you, similar to how one might invite a friend for supper. Help us to deeply experience your love and to share your love with others and to invite others into a deep friendship with you. We pray this is your holy name. AMEN.

Luke 24:13-35- The Road to Emmaus Story

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.[b] 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” 19 He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not

see him.” 25 Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us[f] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.