

## GOD FRIENDED ME

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-n2yuvTcmc>

Anyone need a friend? The craziness of the last few weeks has caused many to rethink our ever increasing individualism in our country and the world. Suddenly we have all the “alone time” we want, but find ourselves lonely. Again, does anyone need a friend?

John 15:9-17

*9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.*

There is a new TV show entitled, “GOD Friended Me.” A young man is suddenly “friended” by God and asked to “befriend” people sent to him (by “GOD”) in order to help them in some way. The show is a mix of drama and humor that reveals our need for friends!

I am hoping you will read through John 15:9-17 and reflect on a couple thoughts.

GOD friended me, and you!

We are in the season of Lent, headed towards Easter. This is a time of year to remember John 3:16. God sent His Son to save the world! GOD friended all people by coming, not to condemn, but to save us!! We have a friend in Jesus.

*In Port Hope, Canada, there is a monument to Joseph Scriven. Not a leading citizen, but a poor selfless working-class man who gave his life to those in need.*

*Born in Dublin in 1820, a young man filled with promise and engaged to his first love. But on the eve of their wedding, his fiancé drowned in a pond. Joseph wandered in grief for years, finally settling in Canada for 41 years. He became a Christian and gave his life to caring for widows, orphans, hungry and homeless. Upon his death, a friend found a poem among his belongings, written to his mother. His words were written in the midst of darkness that would later be set to music: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znWu2HCJ92c>

GOD friended me, who have I friended?

GOD challenges us as friends should. He calls us to follow His commands and love others, to "friend" others. He reminds us to remain in GOD's love. Our current situation is a reminder that we need to return, remain, and reproduce the love of GOD. We can't rest in having a friend, we must make friends as well.

*Wishing to be friends is quick work  
But friendship is a slow ripening fruit*  
Aristotle

GOD friended me, and made me smile

We need to talk about this now? We can't even go out, invite others over, share in hobbies, go to worship or do the things that develop friendship. Well one thing we all need now is some joy. Knowing GOD "friended" us brings JOY! Christ's joy in us and our joy complete. Knowing that you are a loved child of GOD who is known inside and out by a loving GOD makes us smile! Being "friended" brings JOY!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn9aSZ7uPXI>

GOD friended me, FRIENDED ME!

It's amazing, GOD friended me/us! We could be GOD'S subjects, servants, followers, fearers, family and more. Amazingly Jesus calls us friends! How does that make you feel? In the midst of statistics, reports, categories, percentages, you are much more. You are a friend of God. This pandemic may take away a number of things, but it cannot take away the joy of know GOD friended me/you!

*Walking with a friend in the dark  
Is better than walking alone in the light.*  
Helen Keller

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