

Sermon Notes

"When Friendship Conquers Fear"
July 7, 2019



Seeking God
in Solitude



Finding God
in Friendship



Celebrating God
in Community



Reflecting God
in Relationships

Reflection Questions *(please use these individually or in groups)*

Sermon Reflections:

1. Thank God that he has called you “friend!” You are chosen and not rejected!
2. Which of the three promises do you most need reminded of in your life right now? God’s presence? God’s power? God’s preservation?
3. What sorts of things tempt you into a response characterized by “raging opposition?” In which area of your life do you need to stop shaking a fist, or pointing a finger, and instead let God take hold of your hand?

Additional Questions:

1. What does your relationship with your best friend look like? How do you value each other? What do you receive from the friendship, and what do you give? How is your friendship with God similar/different?

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **Ex. 33:7-15** | In your friendship with God, are you as concerned with God’s presence as Moses was? Why or why not?
- **Psalm 121** | If you were an Israelite, making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem for a festival, how would singing this song make you feel during the journey?
- **Rom. 12:9-21** | Of all these different kinds of divine guidance for the life of a Christian, which is most challenging for you? Why?

Self-Care Disciplines *(Excerpts from Celebration of Discipline)*

July Discipline: Corporate Guidance | “Seeking the Mind of Christ” (p. 180)

A personal experience of the Emmanuel presence of Jesus, that He has come to guide his people himself, leading them in definite and immediate ways, is a deeply profound thing. But, it is not sufficient. Individual guidance must yield to corporate guidance. There must also come a knowledge of the direct, active, immediate leading of the Spirit *together*. Perhaps the preoccupation with private guidance alone in Western cultures is the product of their emphasis on individualism. The people of God have not always been so.

Under corporate guidance the early Church faced and resolved its most explosive issue (Acts 15). Some free-lance Christians had begun preaching the necessity of circumcision for all Christians and Paul saw the danger at once. Appointed elders and apostles gathered together in the power of the Lord to hear the mind of the Spirit. Peter brought his recent individual guidance (from his interaction with Cornelius) to the corporate body and the Spirit of God did a wonderful work. The gathered group came into what must be called a glorious, heaven-sent, unified commitment to reject the cultural captivity of the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ. They faced the toughest issue of their day and discerned the voice from on high.

Note: Don't let these burden you each week. Please engage only if you feel it would be beneficial in caring for yourself. Sometimes self-care involves giving yourself a break, even from self care disciplines.