

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

John 15:12

Jesus says to his apostles that he does not call them slaves. Rather he calls them friends. Jesus says those very simple words: “I call you friends.” When I hear that passage for a moment I muse inwardly: “Do you call me your friend, Jesus?” Me? Your friend? Do you mean that of me? And even more important, can I dare to believe that you see me as a friend and want to have a friend relationship with me. Close friendship.

How can I know this? Well if I look at what he taught and the cures he performed and the people that he healed and the dead that he raised and the multitude that he fed and the storms that he stilled and the water on which he walked—then little by little I can begin to place my faith in him and dare to believe that what he did for everyone else he also did for me. I am included in the circle of his love. Let me say that again. I am included in the circle of his love. Me. And you.

How do we let the Lord know that we realize all that he has done and done for us? By following him. By accepting his message into our hearts. By living the way that he displayed for all to see. By keeping the Commandments—the Ten original ones given to Moses and the Two great summary commandments proclaimed by Jesus himself. What will not serve is if I make the claim that I know what Jesus has done and make the statement that I am a good person and that my attitudes are the attitudes of a good person, but do not live his way nor keep his commandments, then I am not acting like his friend, not accepting his offer of friendship, not truly being his friend. His offer of friendship is unconditional. Our acceptance is conditional, proven and put on display by our doing what he has commanded us to do. Is the Lord first in my life—loved with all my heart and mind and soul? Is my love for my neighbor (each person I encounter) readily in evidence? These are the questions of the week.