

I Met a Friend of Mine Today

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:45-54

1. It is a good thing to have a friend. It is the most wonderful thing for us when we have the absolute truest friend!

A. What is a friend?

- 1) “one attached to another by affection or esteem”
(Mirriam-Webster Dictionary).

“a person who you know well and who you like a lot, but who is usually not a member of your family”
(Cambridge Dictionary)

- 2) A “True Friend” is someone who consistently supports, respects, and cares for you, offering trust, loyalty, and safety over time.

2. My best friend would be the one that I would search for in a crowd of people. This would be the one that I think about and enjoy spending time with on a regular basis.
3. My best friend, my truest friend is Jesus Christ. I have good friends, but Jesus is my truest friend.

I Met a Friend of Mine Today, In the Streets of Jerusalem

Matthew 27:50-53

1. **As a result of the earthquake, the graves were opened. After Jesus' resurrection, risen saints went into the Holy City (Jerusalem) and appeared to many people.**
 - **Note: In these passages we learn that the tombs were opened – when Jesus died.**
 - **The saints came out of the graves AFTER Jesus' resurrection.**
 - **Christ was first to rise in triumph over death.**

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- A. **Perhaps, one or more of these risen saints met a friend in the city that day.**
 - 1) **Wouldn't that be something for one to see and recognize an individual that died a few years ago, now walking the streets of Jerusalem!**
2. **Consider this also. Remember the rich man who went to torment and Lazarus who went to paradise.**

Luke 16:27-31

 - A. **In Matthew 17:23, we have an example of a saint rising from the dead after the resurrection of Jesus.**
 - 1) **Did any repent when seeing a dead man, now risen from the grave? We don't know that they did.**

3. The graves being opened and the bodies resurrected symbolizes God's power to bring life from death.

Ezekiel 37:12-13 Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves."

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. **Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.**

4. The saints in Matthew 27, were likely a sign of Christ's victory.
1 Corinthians 15:20-23

- A. The torn veil: Access to God through Christ.**
- B. The earthquake and opened graves: Creation and death respond to the creator!**
- C. The raised saints: A foretaste and testimony of Christ's victory over death and coming resurrection.**

I Met a Friend of Mine Today, When I Arose from the Watery Grave of Baptism

1. We become friends of Jesus, when we become children of God.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe in His name**:

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, **unless they are agreed?**

John 15:14 You are My friends **if you do whatever I command you.**

2. We become friends of Jesus and God's children when we love and obey Him.

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation **to all who obey Him,**

John 15:13-15

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God **through faith in Christ Jesus.**
For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

3. Friendship is sustained by abiding in Him, obeying Him (WORD), and having fellowship with Him.

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly **our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

John 15:4-5 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, **unless you abide in Me.** I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**

I Met a Friend of Mine Today,

When I Died and Saw My Christian Friend in Paradise

Luke 16:19-26

1. The rich man and Lazarus obviously had recognition. Knowing what they had done and knowing who Abraham was.
2. The Disciples recognized Moses and Elijah.
 - A. They were talking to Jesus.
Matthew 17:1-4
 - 1) Based on Bible passages, Heavenly identity is not erased.
3. Jesus promised fellowship in His kingdom.

Matthew 8:11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

I Met a Friend of Mine Today,**When I Was Resurrected and Met Jesus in the Air!****1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

1. It will be at this exact moment that total excitement will overwhelm me – to be with my absolute truest and best friend - Jesus Christ.

- **To be able to be with Him through eternity - being no end!**

Prophesied by Daniel:

Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, **Some to everlasting life**, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

2. After Jesus' resurrection – Jesus was still Jesus.

A. There seems to be a continuity of identity in Heaven.

Luke 24:39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

3. Mary recognized Jesus after His resurrection.

John 20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, **"Rabboni!"** (which is to say, Teacher).

4. We'll be changed – but still be ourselves

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is **raised in incorruption**. It is sown in dishonor, it is **raised in glory**. It is sown in weakness, it is **raised in power**. It is sown a natural body, it is **raised a spiritual body**. There is a natural body, and there is a **spiritual body**.

Conclusion

1. As Christians, we should be longing to meet Jesus – Our true friend!
2. In the resurrection, we will not be less than we are now — we will be more than we have ever been!
 - A. Perfected in Christ our Lord!

Place

Date

[illegible]

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