

## "Dying To Be Your Friend"

Hebrews 9:1-6

July 21, 2024

**Intro:** *From the sixth day of creation to the present, the God who created us has made it clear that he wants to be with us, near us, and even to be IN us! Even after Adam's sin, it was his intent to restore us to friendship with him. In the wilderness He dwelled in a tent made with hands so the Hebrews would have a physical sign that He was near. It was a picture of God wanting them to know that he wants to be near. Inside the tent were the symbols or shadows of what it would cost for Him to be even "nearer than near" to each of them. To be nearer than "near" going from a tent made by hands to a tent that HAS hands, required a payment much more costly than bulls and goats, a payment our God was all too joyful to make.*

**Hebrews 9:1-5** The tabernacle itself is the shadow of God dwelling AMONG his people. The furnishings are the shadow of what it will cost God to dwell WITH and IN his people.

**Bread** is first \_\_\_\_\_ that must be \_\_\_\_\_. =LIFE

**Olive Oil** is first \_\_\_\_\_ that must be \_\_\_\_\_. =LIGHT

**Incense** is first \_\_\_\_\_ that must be \_\_\_\_\_. =COMMUNION

**Isaiah 53:10** It \_\_\_\_\_ the Father to \_\_\_\_\_ him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt.

### A Tabernacle Made WITH Skins

*Even a sinful, rebellious people are no match for the love of a relentless friend!*

**Gen. 3:8** *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.*

**Exodus 25:8** *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may  dwell  in their midst.*

**Exodus 33:7-11**

**Deuteronomy 31:6** *Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.*

**Gen. 5:24** Enoch walked with God (Elohim), and then he was no more, because God had taken him away. (Berean Standard Bible)

### A Tabernacle Made OF Skin, Christ Himself

**John 1:1-3,14** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Dwelt:** Gk. skenoo, to tent or encamp, to occupy, to reside, dwell.

**Mark 3:14** And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach<sup>15</sup> and have authority to cast out demons.

**John 14:16-17**<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,<sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

## A Tabernacle: Our Skin: Christ IN Us!

*Nearly 200 times in the New Testament, "In Christ, In Him, In the Lord, etc., Christ in us, Him in Us, the Spirit in us and various other modes of that truth!  
I wonder what he's trying to communicate to us?"*

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**2 Cor. 4:6-7** Because the God who said, "Out of darkness light shall shine", is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels** that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us."

**Colossians 1:27** To whom God *willed* to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

When I ask God in the midst of my despair, fear or frustration:  
"WHERE ARE YOU?"

## What a Friend We Have IN Jesus

**Proverbs 17:17** A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

*Does the God who declares He loves us...like us?*

*You can love someone and not like them, but when you like them, you enjoy their company; being around them is a joy! The God who loves you as your Dad, and sacrificed his Son to be your Savior, likes you as his friend.*

**John 15:13, 15** Greater love has no man than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

*"A servant serves because it's his job, he has to...  
A friend serves because he gets to, he delights to!"*

**Zephaniah 3:17** *The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.  
Midst: Heb., quereb- Properly, the nearest part, the center, whether literal or figurative.  
Rejoice: Heb., suws. To be bright, cheerful (God's definition of rejoice!)  
Gladness: Heb., simchah, Exceeding, joy, mirth, pleasure  
Exalt: giyl, to spin around (as under the influence of any violent emotion)  
Singing: rinnah properly, a creaking (or shrill sound) cry, shouting, singing, triumph*

**James 2:23** *"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God."*

**Why was Abraham called a friend of God?**

***From the mouth of God to the hearing and hearts of his friends:  
Psalms 23 and Psalm 139***

**A Friend No Matter What! A Friend to the Very End!**

**2 Timothy 3:13** *If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.*

**Lamentations 3:22-23** *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

*"The central basis of Christian assurance is not how much our hearts are set on God, but how unshakably his heart is set on us." Tim Keller (source unknown)*

**Revelation 21:1-4** *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God." <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

**3 Questions before we share this meal with our friend Jesus this morning:**

- *Is Jesus my Savior?*
- *If Jesus is my Savior, do I know Him as my friend?*
- *If Jesus is your friend, and He is, He's also the same friend to the brother or sister you've intentionally shut out of your life.*

**1 John 3:16-24** *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*