



Lake Effect  
C H U R C H

## Journey to the Cross Part 2: What a Friend

February 21, 2021

Lent Season

Notes:

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? Romans 2:4 NLT

Repentance is a gift of God's kindness and gentleness toward you.

"Every man who knocks on the door of a brothel is looking for God."  
G.K. Chesterton

### Jesus, Our Friend

19 The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' Matthew 11:19 NLT

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 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. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another. John 15:12-17 ESV

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. John 13:1

### Abide

A new commandment I give you. Love one another. Just as I have loved you, love one another. John 13:34 NLT

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. John 15:1

Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. John 15:2

For theologian, James Montgomery Boice, the traditional translation of John 15:2 is not necessarily wrong. It just needs more details to make sense. Sort of like understand the meaning of love in the Bible.

Boice develops the four meanings of the Greek verb *airo* used in 15:2 starting with its primary usage and progressing to its lesser usages.

In that order, they are

- 1) to lift up literally,
- 2) to lift up figuratively,
- 3) to lift up with the added thought of carrying it away, and
- 4) to remove.

Boice's analysis concludes with the observation that the linguistically preferred use of *airo* in 15:2a should be its primary meaning – to lift up literally.

Thus for Boice, John 15:2a was always intended to read:

“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, He lifts up.”  
James Montgomery Boice, *The Gospel of John*

## Loving Others

17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.  
John 15:17, ESV

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.  
Luke 15:1 ESV