WEEK FOUR - FRIENDSHIP (How am I developing Christian friendships in my life?)

Scripture - John 15:12-17

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. **16** You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. **17** I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you from Dr. Jones's reflections?
2. What are the implications of being not just a disciple, but a friend of God?
   a. What do you think about this shift from servant to friend?
3. What do you think of this notion that God is changed or transformed by God's relationship with us?
4. Reflect on Dr. Jones's personal story about his friend Kevin and communion from these various perspectives:
   a. Kevin inviting Greg to be with him in his grief
   b. Greg having a deeper experience with communion through this tragic event
   c. Kevin challenging problematic ideas, such as "everything happens for a reason," in the context of his grief
5. What is helpful about Dr. Jones's definition of holy friends? What is challenging?
   a. "Holy friends challenge the sins we have come to love, affirm the gifts we are afraid to claim and help us dream dreams we otherwise would not dream."
   b. What might your friends be dreaming for you?
   c. What God-sized dreams would you have for Brownson?
6. What friendships in your life have been transformational? What made them so impactful?
7. Why is friendship so crucial to the Christian faith?
   a. How do you develop friendships in a time of isolation, uncertainty, and busyness?