



# **INTIMACY WITH GOD**

## **He Calls Us Friends**

**Exodus 33:7-23**

**John 15:12-17**

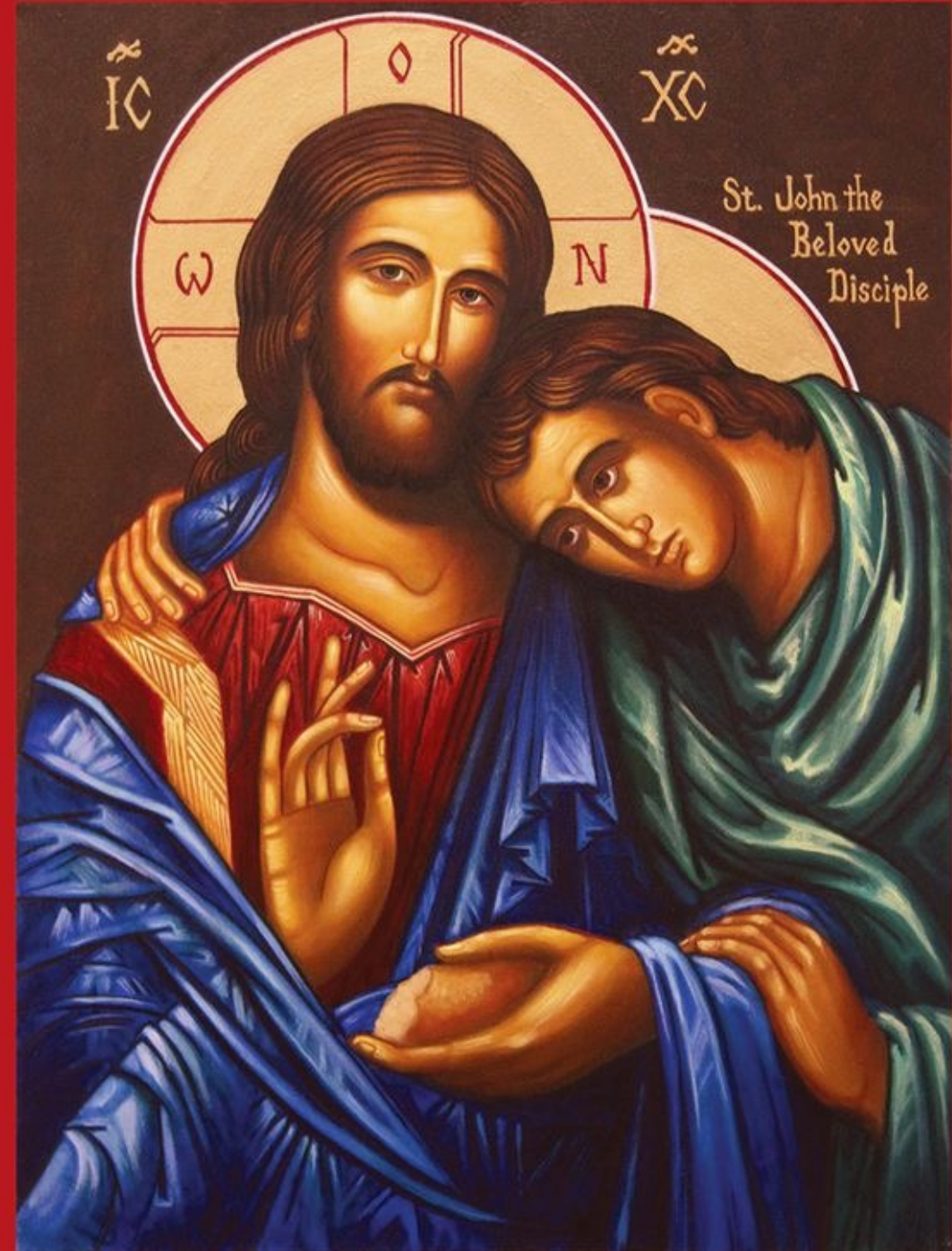
**SJSM Church**

**30 Sep & 1 Oct 2023**

# INTIMACY WITH GOD

## John

- The beloved disciple
- Lying back on Jesus' chest was one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved (John 13:23)

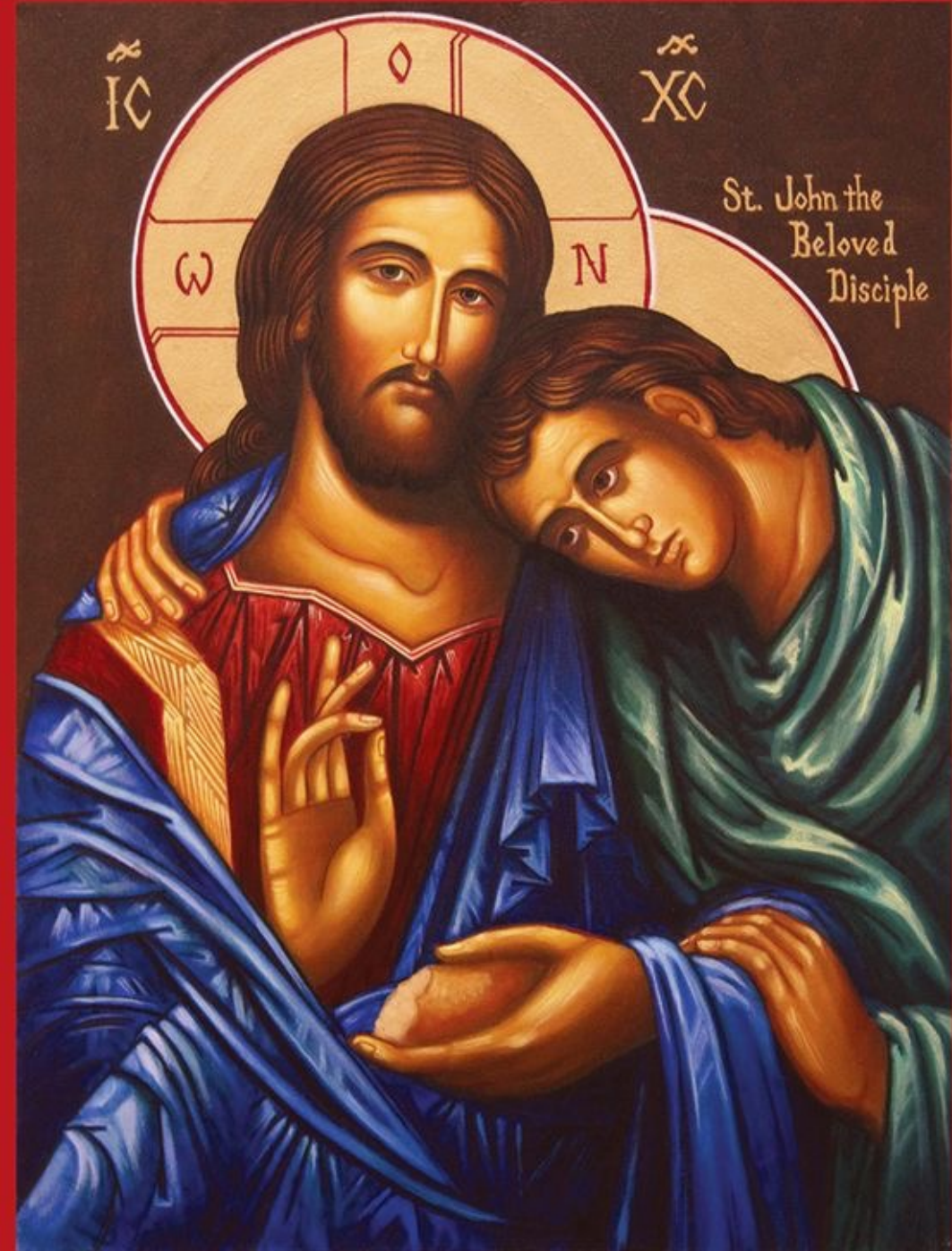




# INTIMACY WITH GOD

## John

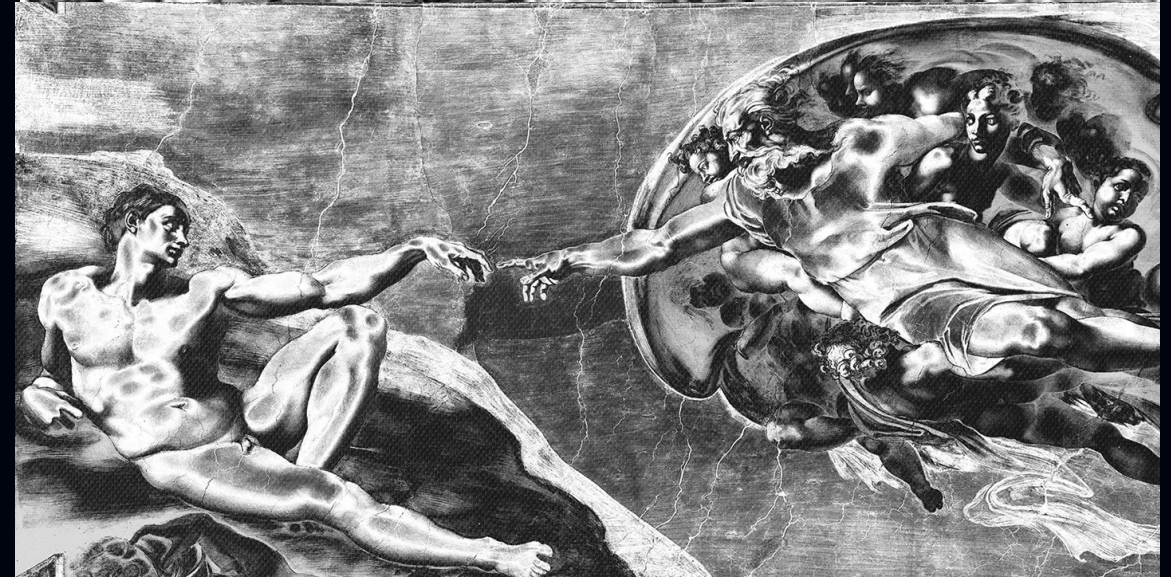
- Being in His presence
- Close to His heart
- Hearing His heartbeat



# CLOSE TO US

## Genesis

- the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day (3:8)





# CLOSE TO US

## Gospels

- Story of Father & Son (Luke 15)
- Picture of intimacy:  
reunion & reconciliation



# INTIMACY WITH GOD

*Jesus invites us into a living relationship. The invitation is a call to intimacy, to closeness, to oneness, and intimacy is what the Christian life is all about. It is a love relationship, and we are called into friendship with the One who is the Lover of our souls.*

Tony Horsfall





# **INTIMACY WITH GOD: He Calls Us Friends**

**Exodus 33:7-23, John 15:12-17**

## **Moses' Intimate Relationship with God**

- **Becoming Friends**
- **Relating Personally**
- **Knowing & Being Known**





# BECOMING FRIENDS

*What does God want in creating us?  
I believe what God wants is friendship.*

*God has, from the arrival of human  
beings, wanted our friendship, and as a  
result of that desire, deep in the heart  
of every human being is a reciprocal  
desire for friendship with God.*

William Barry





# BECOMING 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.*

John 15:15



# BECOMING FRIENDS

## Old Testament

- Abraham (Isa 41:8; Jas 2:23)





# BECOMING FRIENDS

## Old Testament

- Moses

*Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend (Ex 33:11)*

*Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face (Deut 34:10)*





# BECOMING FRIENDS

## Time with God

- Tent of meeting (Ex 33:7-11)
- Mt Sinai (Ex 34:28)

*...the skin of his face shone  
because he had been talking with  
God (Ex 34:29)*





# TIME WITH GOD

*Intimacy with God can only come about when we are willing to set aside the necessary time, on a regular basis, to be in His presence, to enjoy His company, and simply, to converse and talk with Him.*

*Time together with God is a non-negotiable. There is no other way if we want to cultivate and maintain an intimate friendship with God.*





# BECOMING FRIENDS

## Honest Conversations

- Talked to God about everything
- Honest with God about his feelings





# HONEST CONVERSATIONS

*Why have You given me the responsibility for all these people? I didn't create them or bring them to birth! Why should You ask me to act like a nurse and carry them in my arms like babies all the way to the land You promised to their ancestors? Where could I get enough meat for all these people? They keep whining and asking for meat. I can't be responsible for all these people by myself; it's too much for me! If You are going to treat me like this, have pity on me and kill me, so that I won't have to endure Your cruelty any longer.*

Num 11:11-15 (GNT)





# BECOMING FRIENDS

## Honest Conversations

- Talked to God about everything
- Honest with God about his feelings
- Saw God as a friend





# RELATING TO GOD

*Is God impersonal & distant?*

*Someone you hardly talk to  
because you don't involve Him  
much in your life?*

*OR is He a close friend? Someone  
you will always set aside time to  
talk to regularly, not just about  
your needs, but about everything  
that's in your heart.*



## TALK TO JESUS

Tell him about your **week**

Tell him about your **dreams**

Tell him what you're **afraid of**

Tell him what you're **learning about**

Tell him about a **decision** you're facing

Tell him what you're **discouraged** about

Tell him what you need his **help** with

Tell him what you need his **forgiveness** for

Tell him how he's **blessed** you

Tell him what you **love** about him



# INTIMACY WITH GOD: He Calls Us Friends

Exodus 33:7-23, John 15:12-17

## Moses' Intimate Relationship with God

- Becoming Friends
- **Relating Personally**
- Knowing & Being Known





# RELATING PERSONALLY

## Moses & God

- Servant & friend of God

*But not with My servant Moses. Of all My house, he is the one I trust. I speak to him face to face, clearly, and not in riddles. He sees the Lord as He is. (Num 12:7-8, NLT)*





# RELATING PERSONALLY

## Moses & God

- More friend than servant

*No longer do I call you servant, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friend... (John 15:15)*



# RELATING PERSONALLY

## My Journey

*God is more interested in my intimacy  
with Him than in my service to/for Him.*

*But I was relating to God more as a  
servant than as a friend.*





# RELATING PERSONALLY

## My Journey

*My prayer times were very functional, transactional and agenda-driven. It was always about me asking, getting and achieving something.*



# RELATING PERSONALLY

## My Journey

*I begged You for employment,  
You offered me friendship;  
I assumed Your distance,  
You presumed our intimacy.*

Strahan Coleman, "Beholding God:  
Deepening Our Experience in God"





# RELATING PERSONALLY

## My Journey

*Prayer is nothing else than being  
on terms of friendship with God.*

Teresa of Avila



# RELATING PERSONALLY

## My Journey

*Prayer is not about techniques. Effectiveness in prayer is not dependent on how well we master prayer as a method.*

*Prayer is communing with Someone who is a living and personal Being. It is not interacting with an impersonal machine.*





# INTIMACY WITH GOD: He Calls Us Friends

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## Moses' Intimate Relationship with God

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- **Knowing & Being Known**



# KNOWING & BEING KNOWN

## (Exodus 33:12-13, 17-18)

Moses said to the LORD, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘**I know you by name**, and you have also found favour in My sight.’ Now therefore, if I have found favour in Your sight, please **show me now Your ways, that I may know You** in order to find favour in Your sight...

And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favour in My sight, and **I know you by name.**” Moses said, “Please **show me Your glory.**”



# KNOWING & BEING KNOWN

## David & God (Psalm 139)

- God knows everything about me
- My every movement, what I'm going to say, what's in my thoughts & heart, how I feel, etc.
- Lord, You know me so well!



# KNOWING & BEING KNOWN

## My Reflections

- Psalm 139, Exodus 33-34, Isaiah 43
- I am known by God
- My prayer





Lord, You have always known me, and You know me so well. No one knows me like You do. Nothing about me surprises You – what I do, how I think, what I feel, why I'm like that. This is comforting because I know I won't be misunderstood by You. But it's also scary because You can see through me! I cannot pretend before You. But it's good that I can be totally honest with You. I want to be an open book before You, hiding nothing from You, giving You free access to my soul.



Lord, thank You for knowing me, knowing my name, and knowing my face. I am not anybody to You, and I am not a nobody to You. I am not faceless or nameless to You. You don't look pass me like I don't exist. I am somebody to You. I matter to You. Nothing about me is too trivial for You. Thank You God, that I am known by You.





# KNOWING & BEING KNOWN

## Knowing God

- Moses wants to know God
- Show me Your ways Lord that I may know You (Ex 33:13)
- Show me Your glory (Ex 33:18), that I may see Your face (33:20)





# KNOWING & BEING KNOWN

## Knowing God

- David desires to know God (Ps 27:4,8)

*One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord*

*all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek Him in His temple...*

*When You said, "Seek My face,"  
My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."*





# HIS INVITATION

## Your Response

- To a friendship of intimacy
- To knowing Him more deeply
- “Show me Your ways, O Lord;  
Show me Your face, dear God!”



# SHOW ME YOUR FACE

Show me Your face, Lord

Show me Your face

And gird up my legs

That I might stand in this holy place

Show me Your face, Lord

Your power and grace

I can make it to the end

If I could just see Your face





# SHOW ME YOUR FACE

Moses stood on a mountain  
Waiting for You to pass by  
And with Your hand over his face  
So in Your presence he wouldn't die  
All of Israel saw the glory  
And it shines down through the age  
Now You've called me  
To boldly seek Your face



# SHOW ME YOUR FACE

Show me Your face, Lord

Show me Your face

And gird up my legs

That I might stand in this holy place

Show me Your face, Lord

Your power and grace

I can make it to the end

If I could just see Your face

