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A FRIEND

Jesus discreetly revealed at the Last Supper (before His crucifixion) which one of His twelve disciples would betray Him. Later that night, after hours of agonizing prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, the soldiers came to take Him away. As Judas, who led them there, greeted Him with the betrayal kiss (the arranged signal), Jesus said to Judas (NKJV), "Friend, why have you come?" It was a rhetorical question since Jesus already knew the reason. The remarkable thing is that Jesus still called him "friend." He held no animosity toward Judas Iscariot.

Jesus then willingly went with the soldiers where he was interrogated by the chief Roman curator, the religious Jewish high priest, then brutally beaten and crucified by Roman soldiers. It was a fulfillment of God's plan of redemption for mankind just as prophesied centuries earlier.

Jesus still calls Himself "friend" to all of us regardless of whether or not one believes on Him. There have been recent reports in our time of Jesus appearing in a dream or vision to Muslims who have never heard of Him, yet they instantly and intuitively recognize His divinity. When they ask His name, His reply is, ***"Call me Friend."***

Judas Iscariot felt guilty of betraying his innocent friend and consequently hung himself. But what if someone were to betray you? Betrayal is a deliberate act. It can hurt us deeply, especially when it is someone whom we know very well. Are you able to respond with kindness as Jesus did?

In Matthew 5:44 (NKJV) Jesus said, ***"...love your enemies, bless those that curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you..."***. Jesus' number one commandment (John 13:34) is ***"...that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."*** I John 4:8, 16 say ***"God is love."*** It is the very essence of who He is.

The evil in this world does not come from above, but from Satan (Lucifer) who, as "prince of the world" opposes God in all he does.

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, His spirit of love is instilled within your spirit. You can then honestly (and not hypocritically) call everyone "friend."

You can accept Jesus as your own personal Lord and Savior by praying, then repent of being a "lost" sinner, ask God to forgive you, accept the sacrificial blood of Jesus on heaven's altar as full payment for sin, and ask Him to become the Lord of your life. He will give you new life (spiritual and soul renewal) within, making you a "new man" from the inside. You can do that anytime and from wherever you are at that moment. It does not have to be with any particular person, priest, or minister. It does not have to be at any particular place. You just need to do it sincerely...whenever and wherever and accept Him as your friend and Savior.