

## A BEST FRIEND

Every young people knows how important a best friend is. As a youth leader of Living Way Church, I am sharing this lesson of encouragement to you all my best friend out there at the comforts of your home, here in Nadi and in the Lautoka areas. I hope that you will all join in this lesson. Today, I want to encourage us with few truths from the Bible in the gospel of John chapter 3. There are 36 verses in this chapter and are divided into two different events.

1. **GOD TO MAN:** (JESUS TEACHES NICODEMUS) VERSE 1-21.
2. **MAN TO GOD:** (JOHN THE BAPTIST TESTIMONY ABOUT JESUS) VERSE 22-36.

1. **GOD TO MAN:** This is a conversation between Jesus (God) and Nicodemus (Man). When Jesus answered Nicodemus's questions, He replied in this word "I tell you the truth". He reveals the truth to Nicodemus as Nicodemus was a real person; yet he represented all people. What Jesus said to him in verse 3 and verse 7, He says to all. The only way to enter the Kingdom of God is through the new birth or born again which means born from above.

I want to encourage us today dear friends that God is revealing the truth to all man right now and for that I will leave you with one question before we move on to our second truth. Please let the Lord lead you answer this question for yourself and apply because it is the work of God and not the work of human being.

ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?

2. **MAN TO GOD:** John the Baptist (Man) testifies about Jesus (God). Man should humble themselves to God. In verse 30, John the Baptist freely confessed that Jesus must be greater and he (Nicodemus) must become less. And in verse 29 it says "The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listen for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegrooms voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete." Amen. I would like to put verse 29 in its context so that it may help us with some truths, and help you to answer the questions that I will leave to you in this last part of the lesson.

Remember this is John the Baptist speaking. As the writer wrote this passage he is speaking to the Jewish community. When a Jew read or hear this verse it is clear to him/her the kind of ceremony the Jewish people use to perform during the marriages or wedding ceremony. From the bridegroom's family they will choose a close friend or a close family member to attend the bridegrooms before his wedding. This close friend or a family member knows everything about the bridegroom, like what he loves to wear, what he loves to eat or what kind of perfume he always loves to use etc. They are just like one in mind in everything that they do until the day that they will be separated for a while, like few months or so before the wedding.

The bridegrooms best friend or a close family member will be taken to the bride's home to stay with her within that few months so that he will help the bride in preparing her before she meets the bridegroom. He is a helper for the bride and He teaches the bride everything that the bridegroom always loves and do. So I want you young people to look closely to this context and try to answer a few questions if you apply this context to this NOW WORLD as a CHURCH OR A BELIEVER.

1. **WHO IS THE BRIDEGROOM?**
2. **WHO IS THE BRIDE?**
3. **WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND RIGHT NOW YOUNG PEOPLE?**

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BEST FRIEND? I want to challenge you young people or whoever is listening or reading today's lesson that there is a friend who will guide you and me into all truths, He is our helper in times of need. And remember this my friends He is there with you right now. Just call unto Him and open your heart to Him. No matter what you are going through or what you are facing in life, God is revealing the truth of His powerful word to all mankind. He never fails in His word and He is a covenant keeping God.

He loves you and me as **Isaiah 54:10** says **"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you."**

Young people, I want to encourage us today just humble ourselves to the word of God, and continue to seek His presence. When Jesus was about to leave His disciples, again He reveals this truth to them in **John 16:7** **"It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the counselor will not come to you: but if I go, I will send Him to you."** As Jesus spoke to His disciples, that time, He also speaks to us believers today that there is a great friend who always there for us until the end of days. That is the HOLY SPIRIT.

Youths of Living Way Church, if you choose the Holy Spirit to be your best friend today, I strongly believe that you will boldly agree with me in saying what John the Baptist confess in the last part of verse 29 in John chapter 3 when he says "That joy is mine and it is complete." HEY GUYS!! The coming of Christ makes the joy of God's people complete. That's what we are waiting for, our hope who is Jesus Christ. Remember this we are not made of this world or this pandemic that we are facing right now, we were made through Jesus Christ, the word of God and the power of His Holy Spirit. Amen.