

# Spiritual Friendship

## in the Life of Aelred of Rievaulx

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### John 15:12-17

<sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

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A “*New Command*” (v. 12)—Jesus Redefines Friendship

Parable: The Rich Man & Lazarus

Whom We Befriend: “*I chose you...*” (v. 16)

Foundation/Goal of Friendship: “*lay down one's life for one's friends*” (v. 13)

Jonathan & David: “*You will be king...and I will be second to you.*”

The “Upper Stories” of Intimate Friendship

Faithful Commitment (v. 14)

Humble Transparency (v. 15)

God's Mission for Our Friendship: “*So that you might go and bear fruit*” (v. 16)