

Jesus, A True Friend

Introduction

John 15:9-17 (Scripture Reading)

1. Friendship is the cement that holds the world together. Wouldn't life be miserable without friends. Everyone wants to think that they have at least one friend.
 - A. Abraham Lincoln said, "The better part of one's life consists of his friendships."
2. Why are friends so important?
 - A. A friend is one who is your ally in trouble.
 - B. A friend is one to whom you can tell your troubles and deepest secrets, without fear of having them revealed.
 - C. A friend is one who likes you because you are you, and not for what he can get from you.
 - 1) "Your friend is the man who knows all about you, and still likes you" (Elbert Hubbard)
3. With these facts in mind it is perfectly appropriate to think of Jesus as our best friend.
 - A. Because He knows all about us – and still cares for us.

Jesus Was a Friend to All While on the Earth

1. Jesus was a friend to Children.

Matthew 19:13-15 Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.

- A. Jesus used little children as examples of the attitudes necessary for adults to enter the kingdom.

Matthew 18:1-4

2. Jesus was a friend to the Poor.

- A. This was a proof of his messiahship

Matthew 11:1-5

- B. He emptied himself and became poor in order to save the poor.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

3. Jesus was a friend to the Sick.

- A. Even when he wanted to take some time and rest, He still found time for the sick.

Matthew 14:13-14 When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

4. Jesus was a friend to All Races.

A. He wanted the good news about Him preached to all of man.

Matthew 28:19

Acts 15:8-9

1) It is the soul that is precious!

In a Very Special Way Jesus Is a Friend to Sinners

1. Jesus laid down his life for Sinners.

Romans 5:6-8 For when we were still without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly**. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 1:29John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **but with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

A. This was the good news that was Preached to Lost Sinners, that Christ died for us.

1) As a result we can have forgiveness of sins by obedience

Acts 2:38

Romans 1:16

Acts 13:38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you **the forgiveness of sins**;

- B. This makes Jesus a friend to all of us, since We are all Sinners (Rom 3:23).
Romans 3:9-12**

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

- C. Jesus loves us all. He is touched with our weaknesses**

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest **who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses**, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus Calls on Us to Be His Friends

- 1. He showed us His friendship.**

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than **to lay down one's life for his friends**.

- 2. Jesus calls all men to be his friends.**

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- A. He calls "Every Creature" and "All Nations."
Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-19**

1 Timothy 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to **come to the knowledge of the truth.**

3. How do we become the friends of Jesus?

John 15:14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

Matthew 7:21-23

4. What does Jesus ask us to do to be His friend?

A. We must believe that he is the Messiah.

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

B. Repent (turn away from) our sins.

Luke 13:3-5

C. Confess the name of Christ

Matthew 10:32

D. Be baptized into Christ

Acts 22:16

Conclusion

1. **Jesus was a “people-person” when He walked among us - For after all, He did make us in His image (Gen 1:26).**
 - A. **He was “the friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Luke 7:34).**
 - B. **He befriended the alienated and those who were morally down and out.**
 - 1) **Will Rogers said, “I never met a person I didn’t like,” but Jesus’ life says, “I never met a sinner I didn’t want to befriend.”**
 - a) **Jesus loved the sinner, but hated the sin.**
 - b) **Jesus treated people he came in contact with as individuals of great worth.**
 - c) **Jesus looks at you and me and sees what we can become, when we turn from sin – to Him.**
2. **At this hour Jesus is once again holding out his hand, saying, “Come, accept my friendship and be my friend.”**
3. **There’s certainly not a greater friend, than the lowly Jesus!**

