

Jesus The Friend of Sinners

Scripture Mt. 11: 2-19
no. 15-19, 28-30

Introduction - Jesus + John - -
world unresponsive to either; critical of both

I. Jesus is our friend - Characteristics

A. He is a friend in adversity.

1. Prov. 17:17 - "a friend loveth at all times."

2. Paul had a true friend - Onesiphorus -

He may have written words like these:

"Timothy, when Ken and then you go
through Ephesus upon your pastoral round,
where every street to me is hallowed ground,
I will be bold to ask you to bestow
kindness upon one home, where long ago
a helpmate lived, whose like is seldom found;
and when the sweet spring flowers begin to blow,
sometime, for me, lay one upon his mound."

- Thus Paul, long since from out his Roman cell,
as from the past he saw a face arise -
fit picture of the veteran who surveys
His yester years, waiting for the evening bell,
while ~~Heaven shines within his quiet shrine,~~
~~and memory fills with cheer his lonely days!~~"

3. David had a friend - Jonathan -

when his fortunes were at the lowest ebb,
when he was persecuted day + night by the
relentless hatred + jealousy of Saul, and
when, his own hope sinking + faith declining,
his faithful friend Jonathan, ~~whose love to~~
~~him David said, "was wonderful, passing the~~
~~love of women"~~ went to him at night
in the Wood of Ziph, + strengthened his hand in God.

4. When Bishop Beveridge was dying his mental
machinery was breaking down + he didn't
know his closest friends or his wife even. But
when one asked "Do you know Jesus Christ?"
his face lightened + he answered, "yes. I have
known him 40 years + I can never forget him!"

B. He can be depended on to bring joy
to those who trust his friendship. Prov. 27:17

1. a man appeared daily at the Brooklyn
city hall listening with eager hope and
anticipation for the clock to strike 12.
then he would wait 10, 20, 30 minutes,
the light of hope & joy would fade from
his face & he became an old, weary man
and shuffled off in dejection. It was the
tragedy of a broken promise. In a time of
financial difficulty a friend had promised
to meet him at the city hall and hand
him a large sum of money. But the friend
did not keep his word. Disappointment broke
the man's heart & upset his reason. Every
day after that he came and looked wistfully
at the clock waiting for it to strike, and
looking in vain for the friend who
promised he would come. But we have a
friend who always keeps his promise.
"He is faithful that promises." Heb. 10:23

C. He is that friend that sticketh closer than a brother
- In a battle in Scotland there were two brothers in
the same regiment. Their army was beaten and
was leaving the field. One of the brothers lay on
the ground desperately wounded; but the other
brother, although he too was wounded, was still
able to walk. He stooped down & lifted his
brother to his back & carried him from the field.
He saved his brother, but when he had reached
a place of safety he himself staggered & fell dead.
One brother had given his life for another.
Yet we are told there is a friend that
sticketh closer than a brother.

- Jno. 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man
than this, that a man lay down his
life for his friends."

D. Jesus confides in us his mind & heart - Jno. 15:15
"all things that I have heard of my Father
I have made known unto you.
and would not hide anything from Abraham Gen. 18:17

- E. Jesus was interested in associating with those whom others despised & ignored.
1. Woman taken in adultery.
 2. Live the publican, Zacchaeus, Mary of Magdalen - Samaritan woman, Those diseased with putrid sores, etc.

II Jesus wants us to be His friends -

A. Abraham was the friend of God
2 Chron. 20:7, Isa. 41:8, James 2:23

B. God spoke to Moses "as a man to his friend." Ex. 33:11

C. But we must not be the kind of false friends that betrayed him.

Ps. 41:9 "My familiar friend hath lifted up his heel against me."
yeek. 13:6 "wounded in the house of my friends."

D. If we would be his friend we cannot be a friend of the world. (Jas. 4:4)
nor a friend of Caesar. (Jno. 19:12)

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