

Jesus, Friend of Sinners

Luke 5:31-32

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

I. Introduction:

In chapter 23 of the story we see that Jesus came for sinners. He was accused of being a "friend of sinners," an accusation he did not shy from. Jesus befriended sinners on purpose. That was what His life and ministry was really all about.

II. What does it imply to be a friend of Jesus?

A. Jesus accepts you just as you are.

Jesus did not wait for sinners to become holy to be their friends.

Romans 5:8,10-11

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners... For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

B. It shows when Jesus befriends you.

Everyone that had a friendship encounter with Jesus was changed.

John 4:14 "but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life".

III. Where do we go from here?

Jesus wants to make us friends of sinners. If Jesus was a friend of sinners, we should be too, if we are to model Him in our lives. Jesus went against all bigotry, law and culture of his day to go and find those that needed Him most. Will we join Him in his pursuit?

- 1) Leper: *Luke 5:12-13* - Unclean & Immoral
- 2) Levi: *Luke 5:27-32* - Tax collector = Thief/Traitor
- 3) Samaritan woman: *John 4:7-29* - Despised, Worthless & Excluded

Discussion Questions

1. How has this lesson changed your perception of God coming close to us?
2. Was someone a friend to you when you most needed to find Jesus?
3. Without mentioning names, are there specific people that you know that need you to step up and be a friend to show them the love of God?
4. Name a way that you can be of help to someone to show them the love of Jesus.