

FRIEND OF SINNERS

Friendly Jesus

Matthew 11:19 [Jesus said,] “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”
(Parallel: Luke 7:34)

John 11:11 After [Jesus] had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

Luke 12:4-5 [Jesus said to a crowd of many thousands,] “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

Luke 5:20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said [to the man lowered through the roof], “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

John 15:13 [Jesus said,] “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

John 15:15 [Jesus said,] “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.”

Matthew 26:50 Jesus replied [to Judas], “Do what you came for, friend.”
Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

John 21:5 [Jesus] called out to [some of his disciples on the Sea of Galilee], “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered.

Recognize the ugly within.

Hebrews 5:1 Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³ This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

“There but for the grace of God, goes John Bradford.”

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:10-11 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

John 8:7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

James 2:8-11 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

Be compassionate of people’s backstories.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

Circumstances

Mark 14:72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Opportunity

2 Samuel 11:2-4a One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

Background

2 Kings 12:14 [Rehoboam] followed the advice of the young men and said, “My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.”

Peer pressure

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

Live in your new identity.

We have a new calling on how we live.

Matthew 5:44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

We have a new understanding of our true worth.

Galatians 2:12 For before certain men came from James, [Peter] used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.