

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus

(John 15:13-15)

### Introduction:

1. In these verses, Jesus mentioned the word "*friends*" 3 times.
  - a. Jesus showed His apostles that He was their friend.
  - b. He told them how they could be His friends.
2. Friends are a great blessing -- we consider them to be special.
3. We also expect certain things from our friends.
  - a. We expect our friends to be true to us -- "*A friend loveth at all times*" (Proverbs 17:17).
  - b. We expect our friends to be able to empathize with us -- "*To him that is afflicted pity should be showed from his friend*" (Job 6:14).
4. The verses we are studying show us what kind of friend Jesus is.

### Discussion:

#### I. JESUS IS A SPECIAL FRIEND TO SINNERS

- A. Sinners were attracted to Jesus (Matthew 9:10; Luke 15:1).
- B. The Lord's dealings with a woman in John 8:1-11 help us understand why.
  1. On this occasion, Jesus was being "tempted" [tried].
    - a. A woman caught in the act of adultery was brought to Him.
    - b. Her accusers told Jesus what the Law of Moses said about dealing with such a person -- she was to be put to death.
    - c. These men were using this woman to try to find something they could use against the Lord.
      - 1) At that time, the Romans controlled Palestine, but they allowed the Jews to have a certain amount of freedom to govern themselves.
      - 2) However, the Jews were not allowed to administer capital punishment.
      - 3) If Jesus said that the woman was to be:
        - a) stoned, then He would be in trouble with the Roman officials
        - b) released, then He would be violating the law of Moses.
  2. These men were not really interested in doing God's will.
    - a. The law actually said that both parties involved in adultery were to be put to death (Leviticus 20:10).
    - b. They did not bring the man -- they only brought the woman.
  3. Consider this woman's predicament.
    - a. She was a sinner -- she had been caught in the very act of adultery, and she deserved to die.

- b. Her accusers were hostile to her -- they were willing for her to be put to death so they could accuse Jesus.
  - c. We can safely say that this woman desperately needed a friend.
4. Jesus became her best friend.
- a. Although this was a touchy situation, Jesus:
    - 1) did not leave her
    - 2) had empathy for her.
  - b. Jesus:
    - 1) stood up for her by answering her accusers
    - 2) let her know that He was not going to condemn her
    - 3) told her, "*go, and sin no more.*"
5. These events show us that Jesus is a sinner's best friend.
- a. His mission is not to condemn -- His mission is to save.
  - b. He still calls upon sinners to turn from sin and live godly lives [He came to call "*sinners to repentance*" -- Mark 2:17].

## II. JESUS IS A SPECIAL FRIEND TO HIS FOLLOWERS

- A. The Lord's feelings toward His followers are expressed in John 13:1.
- B. Let us consider what Paul said about the Lord in 2 Timothy 4:16-18.
  - 1. Paul was in Rome making a defense for charges that had been brought against him.
  - 2. When he made his first defense no friend stood with him -- everyone had forsaken him.
  - 3. However, there was One who stood with him.
  - 4. Not only did the Lord stand with him, but He also gave Paul the strength that he needed during this difficult time.
    - a. Jesus knew how Paul felt because all of His followers had forsaken Him when He was arrested (Matthew 26:56).
    - b. The Lord did not leave Paul -- He was with him until the end.
- C. The Lord:
  - 1. knows how we feel during times of difficulty (Hebrews 4:15)
  - 2. is true -- He will not leave us (Hebrews 13:5b)
  - 3. does not want us to leave Him (Revelation 2:10).

### Conclusion:

- 1. We have shown that Jesus is a special friend to sinners and His followers.
- 2. He has shown us how much He loves us (John 15:13).
- 3. He tells us how we can be His friends (John 15:14).
- 4. Are you a friend of Jesus?