

I'll Be A Friend to Jesus

- I. Greater love
 - A. Lay down his life for his friends
 - B. "The Good Lie"
 1. Having to adapt to American culture
 2. Coming from Genocide to wastefulness
 - C. Sacrifice for family is often much easier than for friends
- II. If
 - A. John 15:14; You are my friends if you do what I command you.
 - B. Juan 15:14; 14 Ustedes son mis amigos si hacen lo que yo les mando.
 - C. All of God's promises come with conditions (and we see God test him later)
 1. Abram - Go... and I will make you a nation, give you a land, bless all people (Genesis 12:1-3)
 2. Israel - Obedience equals blessing, disobedience equals curses (Deuteronomy 27:9-28:68)
 3. All other nations
 - a) Genesis 15:16; And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."
 - b) Daniel 4:27; Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.
 4. Christians - John 15:5-10; 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
- III. Servants
 - A. Christian in name only is no Christian at all
 1. Christians are recognized by their fruit
 2. Recently, a man asked to stay under our overhang, out of the rain. He had been run off from several different churches
 3. He would not accept a seat inside (out of the rain); he would not accept a cup of hot coffee
 4. He did accept a couple blankets to stay off the cold concrete and out of the wind
 5. He said to me, "You are more Christian than any other person I have met in this town."
 - B. If we are going to sing the words, "I'll be a friend to Jesus" we must be ready to act, to serve, to bear fruit in keeping with that statement
 - C. Christ demands all we are and all we have! - Luke 14:33-35; 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. 34 "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? 35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
 - D. Christianity is not a "feel good" religion
 1. We come to worship on Sunday so we "feel good"

2. We tithe appropriately so we “feel good”
 3. We wear and say things that are Christianly so we “feel good”
- E. Christianity is a way of living based on selfless service in His name
1. Mark 9:41; For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.
 2. Ephesians 4:11–12 (NIV84); 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up
 3. Ephesians 6:5–7; 5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,
- F. To be a friend of Jesus is to be a servant in His kingdom

IV. Friends

- A. A person you know well and regard with affection and trust
- B. A friend is someone we count on especially when times are tough
- C. Jesus could have used a friend after his arrest
 1. Peter was there trying to protect Jesus until Jesus stopped him
 2. All of the apostles scattered
 3. Peter denied Jesus 3 times
 4. He stood without a friend
 5. What about in your life?
- D. Today, Christ is becoming more and more a target for people
 1. Christianity is on trial
 2. From the public challenge of God’s moral law to the outright killing of any who profess Jesus as their savior
 3. Society prefers to make up their own morality; they prefer to make up their own right and wrong
 4. The world has turned against Him
 5. What about you?
- E. Jesus is the source of our salvation
 1. We are in need of saving!
 2. Our behavior, at one time, stood at cross purposes with Jesus
 3. There are some whose behavior still stands at cross purposes with Jesus
 4. Yet, Jesus still died for all of us

V. Come To Jesus

- A. Bring Christ your broken life
- B. Be a friend to Jesus
- C. Commit yourself to a live a service to Jesus in His Kingdom
- D. Matthew 11:28–30; 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”