

SERIES: FRIENDSHIP

Friendship: The Jesus Way

March 8, 2010

In any area of life we are always to look to Jesus as our example. His perfect, sinless life makes Jesus unlike any other "role model" one can seek to emulate; as God He is the One we seek to be like. While on earth, Jesus gave us glimpses of how one is to interact with others and develop relationships. Thus, Jesus is the best source for wisdom and instruction concerning the topic of friendship. The following are fourteen insights into friendship we find from the life of Jesus.

1. Jesus was intentional about picking his friends.

Luke 6:12-13 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles.

2. Jesus had only a few best friends.

Matthew 17:1 And after six days, Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

Mark 5:37 And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.

Luke 8:51 And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James...

3. Jesus' closest friends followed God.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

4. Jesus had meaningful conversations with his friends.

Luke 8:9-15 (Jesus explains a parable)

Matthew 16:13-20 (Jesus asks the disciples who they think he is)

5. Jesus didn't abandon his friends when he became popular.

Luke 5:15-16 But now [after healing a leper], even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and be healed of their infirmities. 16 But he withdrew to desolate places to pray.

6. Jesus "did life" with his friends.

Matthew 26:19-29 (Jesus and the disciples celebrate Passover and eat a meal together)

7. Jesus considered his close Christian friends to be like family.

Matthew 12:49-50 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said "here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

8. Jesus' closest friends were all the same gender.

Mark 3:16-19 He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James...18 Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

9. Jesus loved his friends deeply.

John 11: 33-36 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, "where have you laid [Lazarus]?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

10. Jesus rebuked his friends when necessary.

Mark 8:33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but the things of man."

11. Jesus prayed for his friends.

John 17:9-19

12. Jesus served his friends and met their needs.

John 13:3-12 (Jesus washes the disciples feet)

13. Jesus worshipped God with his friends.

Matthew 26:30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

14. Jesus forgave his friends.

John 21:15-19 (Jesus forgives Peter for denying him)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which two or three points from the above list struck you the most? Why?
2. Take a moment to examine your own friendships. How do they fail to reflect the values that Jesus had?