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Jesus and His Friends

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JESUS AND HIS FRIENDS

I. World has much to say about friendship.
   A. Aristotle - "What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies."
   B. Sir Thomas Browne - "I have loved my friends as I do virtue, my soul, my God."
   C. Disraeli - "Friendship is the gift of the gods, and the most precious born to man."
   D. Mark Twain - "The holy passion of friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a whole lifetime, if not asked to lend money."
   E. R.W. Emerson - "God evidently does not intend us all to be rich or powerful or great but He does intend us all to be friends."

II. That Jesus had understandable and mysterious friends we all know.
   A. There were the Parable Friendships.
      1. 11th hour story.
         Matt. 20:13--
         a. This story often happened in Palestine.
         b. Grape harvest last of Sept. --then rains ruined if not harvested.
         c. Any worker is welcome at any hour.
         d. Pay normally 17¢ per day or 4 & 7 "whatever is right."
         e. Men went to market place (labor pool) and waited. Wanted work--waited even 'til 5:00 p.m. - desperately needed it.
f. Only hired laborers—not even slaves or servants—semi-starvation line.
g. Hired at 6:00, 9, 12 & 5.
h. We claim no special honors—all are valuable to God. No favored folk.
i. All are fairly treated by God.
j. Opportunities vary—some Chr. in youth, others old age. 12 gates in Holy City—East (dawn) West (sunset).
k. Each man has right to work.
l. Service’s spirit is what counts—kids draw valentines.
m. All that comes is by God’s grace
(1) Do you suppose last hired were least competent?

n. Can’t put God in our debt.
o. Some work for pay—others without contract.
p. Jesus always has his "friends" who try to run his business but he handles it apart from our supervision.
q. Do we grumblingly or gratefully come to Jesus?
r. Do I grumble if for shorter and less efficient work folks are paid as much as me?
(1) In parable all grumbled.
(2) One man laid his money down and made his complaint!
s. May Jesus do what he please with his own.
t. Is eye grudging because Jesus is generous.
u. Do we work with eye on contractual wage
   (hiring--Ford $3.89 per hour--fast line
   on Mon. due to drunks and Fri. due to
   slackers) or for the joy of job well done?
   v. None of us have squatter’s rights.
   w. We must serve God out of love not wages
   y. He has tenderness for the despised and
   neglected.
   z. He looks at attitude and spirit of man
   more than his work.
   a. Publicans and sinners flocked hear him.
   b. Phar. & Scribes murmured.
   c. Ate with them, the outcast.
   d. Sheep story.
      (1) 100--lose 1--leave 99.
      (2) Go ’til he finds it!
      (3) Puts on shoulders--rejoicing, not
           spanking!
      (4) Has party with friends--rejoice.
      (5) So does Heaven.
   e. Are we concerned over lost?
   f. Do we rejoice over finding?
   g. Do our friends appreciate spiritual
      matters?
B. Lazarus His Friend. John 11:11
   1. Jesus’ greatest miracle--just before
      crucifixion.
   2. Bethany family.
      a. Martha--housekeeper--burden with
         much service.
b. Mary--always at His feet.
c. Laz. loved and friend.
   (1) Deathly sick.
   (2) Go to God when you have trouble.
      (a) Sisters did.
      (b) Hez. spread letter. Isa. 37
      (c) Disciples on John's death. Matt. 14:12
3. Jesus taried--disciples didn't want to come--chosen ones misunderstood--pain can bring blessing.
4. Martha felt he could have prevented--none ever died in his presence.
5. In view of evidence Martha believed.
6. Mary quickly came (v-29)
7. Others followed--do you cause some to follow Jesus?
8. When you seek to help someone you are usually blessed--they saw a miracle!
9. Jesus groaned (angered) wept, prayed, called loudly.
C. He called Judas friend.
   Matt. 26:50 "Friend, do that for which
1. Judas had told authorities where they could find Jesus and thus intercept his prayer.
2. It was like a mob that came.
3. Jesus allowed no resistance.
4. Peter cut off Malchus' ear--it was a thing of fantastic courage. He would take on a mob alone!
5. Jesus died by his own choice—even here he could have blasted enemies.
7. From Smith we get this background.
8. Jesus leave city, with 11, via Kidron. Jn. 18:1
   a. No pleasant stream; sacrificial blood drained into it from altar, now red!
9. Quietly walked to garden. Came often during last week=Olive grove or Press, Oil Press.
10. Late, disciples could have put cloak around and gone to sleep. Left 8 took 3.
11. Anguish over him—grieved, bewildered "Bewilderment of soul in unaccustomed surroundings"—He to bear sin!
12. Craved sympathy, 3 prayed, prostrate one hour, they sleepy.
13. Heard troup come—sleep on.
14. Judas went from upper room to rulers Lu. 22:4
15. Band had temple officers, Rom. Soldiers (they’d wear armor and march in step)
    High Priests, Temple Captains and elders. Lu. 22:54
16. Ragtag—profession and undisciplined with cudgels and torches.
17. Soldiers didn’t know who of 12 was Jesus
   v-50"Friend, do what you have come to o
19. Who seek--I am he--let others go.
20. Soldiers fell, Jesus thought of his!
21. Worked hands free to replace ear.
22. 6000 legion size; 12 = 72,000 angels and
   one angel killed 185,000. 2 Kings 19.
   What would this crowd do against 72000!
23. Cowards to not take him in temple.
24. Disciples fled.
D. He'd like to call you Friend.
   John 15:14 "Ye are my friends if
1. Obvious disciples prove love by obedience
2. Jesus proves his by calling us his friends
   a. In past called them servants.
3. In friends you confide.

West End - 6/4/67
Patricia Wiseman-Odell
Franklin, Ky. Radio - 7/1967
One young man, in keeping with the general practice of school children making fancy greetings for their mothers on Mother's Day, had put a special bit of himself on the inside, when he wrote: "Thanks for breakfast, lunch and dinner. If it weren't for you I'd be much thinner." — Frederic (Wis) Inter-County Leader.