

A Friend of Tax Collectors and Sinners

Who Do You Say I Am? #5

Tim Gill - February 1, 2015

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

Luke 7:34 (NIV)

Jesus is my greatest friend...

1. Because Jesus wants to be with me.

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ² This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such despicable people – even eating with them!

Luke 15:1-2 (NLT)

When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today."⁷ Everyone who saw this started grumbling, "This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."¹⁰ The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost.

Luke 19:5, 7, 10 (CEV)

Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people.

Romans 12:16 (CEV)

2. Because Jesus really cares about me.

"What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and riffraff?" Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

Matthew 9:11-12 (MSG)

When he saw the crowds, he felt deep concern for them. They were treated badly and were helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 (NIVR)

The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them.

John 15:13 (CEV)

God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

Romans 5:8 (MSG)

Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions.

1 John 3:18 (TLB)

3. Because Jesus wants what's best for me.

When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:16-17 (NIV)

You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ 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.

John 15:14-15 (NIV)