

I'll Be A Friend To Jesus

There's much more to being a friend than just making the claim. We have all had acquaintances that were "friends" in name only. In the song, *I'll Be A Friend To Jesus*, we sing, "The world may turn against Him, I'll love Him to the end, and while on Earth I'm living, my Lord shall have a friend." We need to examine ourselves to ensure that we are not just making a claim to be Jesus' friend. If we are going to call ourselves friends of Jesus, we need to make sure that our lives bear witness to that end. Let us examine a few examples of feigned friendship, that we not fall into such a trap.

"FAIR-WEATHER" FRIENDS

Many people who claim to be friends are only around when times are good. The moment a little adversity arises, they are nowhere to be found. The Bible teaches that, "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Proverbs 17:17). A true friend will be supportive during hard times. Our Lord found Himself alone when He was in need of friendship.

And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me. And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done. And He came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And He left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words (Matthew 26:37-44).

Jesus was also alone to defend Himself before Pilate.

And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate. And Pilate asked Him, Art Thou the King of the Jews? And He answering said unto him, Thou sayest it. And the chief priests accused Him of many things: but He answered nothing (Mark 15:1-3).

MISERABLE COMFORTERS

When Job was in need of consolation, his friends "stood by his side" with rebukes and scorning remarks. After listening to such nonsense, Job replied, "I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all" (Job 16:2). Job needed solace, but received only misguided and unauthorized judgment. Eliphaz and Zophar falsely asserted that Job's sufferings were due to

some wickedness that Job had perpetrated against God. Their statements were baseless and without merit. Job sarcastically responds to his friends, “and wisdom shall die with you” (Job 12:2), as to jest that since they must have been the “keepers of all knowledge,” then once they died, wisdom too would die with them. We’ve all encountered these, “know-it-alls,” who will accept only evidence which seems to prove that which they desire. God declares, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

MERCHANDISERS

The Apostle Peter warned first century Christians that false prophets would come in among them and that these false teachers, by deceitful words, would draw many away from the truth. “And through covetousness shall they with feigned words *make merchandise of you*: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not” (2 Peter 2:3, emphasis B.G.). Many pretend to be our friends in order that they may get something out of us. Whether it be for financial gain, some semblance of power, or merely to soothe their own consciences for whatever reason, many will prey upon the good and honest heart of a faithful Christian who only desires to do that which is good. These “human-brokers” will treat us like “merchandise,” or stocks that can be sold and traded on Wall Street, the price of which depending upon the moods of the consumer.

CONCLUSION

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Let us be a friend *to* Jesus by being a friend *like* Jesus. Jesus loves the souls of men (John 3:16), is compassionate (Matthew 9:36), and desires that all men be saved (Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 2:4). Jesus stated, “This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:12-14).

– *Brad Green*