

# WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

## Fundamentals of the Faith

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### **LESSON #31 — JESUS IS OUR BEST FRIEND: HIS LIFE, PART 1**

That brings us to the next point that we want to study, and that is that Jesus is the Christian's Best Friend. And we want to dwell on that point and look at it from several different standpoints, several different aspects, He is our best friend. But when we use that term, what do we mean? What is a friend? Well, let's look at a definition found in one of Webster's dictionaries. It says that a friend is a person who is attached to another by feelings of affection, respect, trust, fellowship, and a desire for the good of that person. Someone, who it is a pleasure to spend time with. There are some key elements in terms of a friendship between one friend and another. We're attached to each other. We have feelings of affection, of respect, of trust, of fellowship, and of a genuine desire for the good of that other person. Jesus certainly fits the description, the definition, of a friend found in Webster, and someone it is a pleasure to spend time with.

Jesus is not on this earth now. But we can spend time with Him from the standpoint that we can read His Word and be encouraged and strengthened by it, and we can pray to the Father through Him. And it's a pleasure, or out to be a pleasure, for us to do that. Let's look at God's definition of a friend found in several passages of Scripture. In the book of Proverbs, in the 17th, chapter, and verse 17. Proverbs 17, verse 17. "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." There's a wonderful characteristic of a true friend shown in this verse. A friend loves at all times. Loves when we're on our best behavior, and loves when we're being human, falling short of the glory of God, not being the best person that we can be. That's true love. That's the kind of love that Jesus has for us. And he says, a brother is born for adversity. Adversity is when we have trials, difficulties, temptations, when things don't go exactly the way that we believe they ought to. Then we need a friend, we need a brother or a sister in Christ, one who's a member of God's family, when we see the beauty of friendship, when we think about how we help each other in difficult times. That's another element of friendship found in this verse.

Then in the 18th chapter, verse 24. Proverbs 18, verse 24. "A man who has friends must himself be friendly. But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Well, one of the elements of friendship seen here is that we must ourselves be friendly, if we expect to have friends. We need to be one who shows the characteristics of a friend in our dealings with others. And then he talks about there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Who is there at every time of need. The one who shows affection, and the one who builds trust by dependability, by faithfulness, by helping in such times of need. Think about Jesus, and how He fits that description. He's always there. He sticks closer than a brother. He's promised that He'll never leave nor forsake us.

And then in this book of Proverbs, also, the 27th chapter, and verse 9. Proverbs 27, verse 9. "Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend does so by his

hearty counsel.” All right, he talks about ointment and perfumes, sweet smelling things delighting the heart. But the point that we want to draw from this passage in this particular study, is that a friend’s wise counsel, wise advice, also delights the heart. So we need friends to give us the kind of advice that God would characterize as wise. That which will help us to make the right decisions, and do the right things, take the right actions in our lives. So wise counsel is something that is important in friendship. What has Jesus done for us there? He’s given us the ultimate wisdom, the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to give us advice, guidance, counsel, exhortation, rebuke, encouragement, all of those things that we can find in the New Testament.

Then in the book of Ruth. Ruth, chapter 1, verse 16, and 17. Ruth, the first chapter, verse 16 and 17. “But Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.’” What a wonderful statement of friendship we see between Ruth and Naomi here. And Ruth talks about some of the things that are characteristic of a friend. She said, “Where you go, I’m going to go, where you live or lodge, I’m going to live. Where you die, I’m willing to die. Your people, your relatives, will be my people, and your God will be my God.” You see the closeness of friendship there. And that’s what we need to encourage and sustain us while we’re here on this earth. We have dear Christian friends who strive to meet those qualifications, but none meets those qualifications like our Lord Jesus Christ, our Best Friend, the best of friends. So we can see in those passages of Scripture important elements of friendship, and we can see how Jesus meets the test, and surpasses the requirements at every step of the way.

And we want to look at some ways in which we can know that Jesus is the best friend that we could ever have. Let’s look at just 4 reasons that we’ll study. First of all, we’re going to talk about His life while He was here upon this earth is one reason that we can know he is our best friend. Secondly, we’re going to study about His humiliation and His suffering, not because He deserved it, but because we deserve it. He was humiliated and suffered for us. And the third reason, His death and His blood shed upon the cruel cross of Calvary. And then fourthly, His resurrection, and His present reign as King of kings, and Lord of Lords, as we’ve seen in our prior study. There are four reasons then that we can see and know that Jesus the Christ is the Christians, best friend. And as has been our custom in the past, we’d like to go to the Scriptures, to the Word of God, to verify that these points are rooted and grounded in God’s Word.

Let’s begin with that first reason is His life upon this earth. We know that He is the Christian’s best friend from the fact that He came to live on this earth. Let’s look at some things about that. For example, in Luke chapter 19, verse 10, God tells us that the Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost. He left the glory of heaven, the joy of heaven, to come to this earth, and live a life here, to seek and save that which was lost. What was lost? You and me, in our trespasses and sins. We were dead, spiritually, without Jesus coming to this earth.

And then in the book of Matthew, in chapter 1, verse 21, Scripture tells us that He would be named Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins. That’s a wonderful thought,

that Jesus came down from heaven, to live here to save us from our sins. And that's another beautiful point about His life upon this earth.

Then another passage, this found in the book of John, in John the sixth chapter, verses 33 through 35. John chapter 6, verse 33 through 35. “‘For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, give us this bread always.’ And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’” Here Jesus describes Himself as the bread of heaven, the bread who came down from heaven, so that we might have life. What do we think of, when we think of bread? We think of good food to nourish and strengthen and provide health to our body, to provide life to us. And that's the illustration that Jesus was using. He is spiritually, to our soul, what bread is to our body. He is what we need to live and He promises that if we follow Him, and believe in Him, we'll never hunger and never thirst. We'll always be satisfied, spiritually, is what His primary point is in this context.

We know also, that He has promised, for example, in Matthew chapter 6, verse 33, that if we seek Him and His kingdom first, and all of His righteousness, then He will provide, or make sure, that we are provided with the things that we need to live. But the primary application in this context is: Jesus is the bread of life, the spiritual strength nourishment that we need to live properly on this earth. Without Him, we shrivel up and die. With Him, we have life.

Then in the same chapter, John, chapter 6, verse 68. John 6, verse 68. "Then Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’” In this context, Jesus had uttered some sayings that were hard. And the Bible tells us that some of His disciples left Him. They chose not to follow Him anymore, because of the difficult things that He said. We've got to be careful that we don't fall into that context. Jesus says some things that are hard, that are difficult. But, we can't forsake following Him for that reason. But then Jesus turned to His apostles, and He said, "Will you also leave Me? This is one of Peter's great answers: “Where can we go, Lord, You have the words of eternal life.” So Jesus came to this earth to bring us the words of eternal life. That's a wonderful thing about His life upon this earth. While He was here, He spoke the words of eternal life, the words, if we will obey to the best of our ability, God will bless us with eternal life in heaven in the hereafter.

And then in John chapter 8, verse 12. John, the eighth chapter, verse 12. “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” Jesus is the light of the world. Not only is He the bread of life, but the light of the world. The one who brought light into a world filled with darkness, with sin, with evil. And that light radiates, as we read about His life upon this earth. And we need to recognize that if we believe in Him, and we follow Him, we're never going to walk in darkness. But we'll have the light of life, a better life here, and eternal life in heaven. So Jesus came to this earth, to be the light of the world. We need that light, to live our life properly. And Jesus did that by coming and living His life upon this earth.

In John 10, verse 10, Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” So Jesus came to this earth, so that we could have a better life. We believe that two things are involved here. One is that we have a better life while we're here. While we're here on this earth. We have the best of life. If there is no heaven, and we know there is because God said so in the Scriptures. But just say there wasn't any heaven. The Christian life

would be the best life, the most meaningful, the most fulfilling, the most peaceful, the most filled with joy, and all of the good things of life. The promise of providing the things that we need while we're here. So Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. But He also came, that we might have eternal life, through His life, suffering, death, and resurrection from the dead. But He came to this earth that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

Then in the 11th chapter of John, verse 25, and 26. John 11, verse 25 and verse 26. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" Jesus, of course, talking to Martha in this context, and He said, "I am the resurrection and the life." He came to this earth, to live for you and me, to be the resurrection and the life. And He said, "He who believes in Me, though he should die, he shall live." Here, He's talking about physical death. We're all going to be subject to physical death, unless the Lord comes again before we die physically. The general rule is we're all going to die. But Jesus said, even though you die, you shall live. Why? Because He is the resurrection and the life. And because we are associated with Him, if we're faithful, obedient Christians, striving to walk in the light of His Word. And then verse 26, Jesus said, "Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." Was Jesus contradicting himself? In the verse before, verse 25, He says, "Even though you die, you shall live." Now He says, "If you believe in Me and follow Me, you shall never die." I believe He's talking about two kinds of death. In verse 25, He's talking about physical death. In verse 26, He's talking about spiritual death. So if we live and believe in Jesus, then we're not going to die spiritually. We're not going to be separated from God in eternity, in the flames of hell. And all of that, because Jesus came to this earth, to live for you and me.

Then in John 14, verse 6, Jesus said, "I am the Way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father, except through Me." There's a very exclusive statement on the part of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But He came to this earth and lived, and He was the way, that is, the way that we should live while we're here, and the way to heaven. The truth: He was the absolute embodiment of truth, righteousness, saying that which is accurate, and living that which is accurate. And then He said, "I am the life." We've seen the emphasis that He puts upon life in his statements in John 6 — the bread of life, the resurrection and the life, the light of the world, and having life more abundantly. Those kinds of things. And Jesus said, "No man comes to the Father except through Me." So we know that He is the one way to heaven. And that's because He chose to come and live on this earth as a Man.

And then in 1 Peter. 1 Peter, chapter 2, verse 21. 1 Peter 2, verse 21. "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps." Now, Peter says, by the inspiration of God, that one reason that Jesus came to this earth to live is to set the perfect example, the example that you and I can follow. And isn't that great to know that we have one who has gone through what we've gone through, lived through what we've lived, and showed us the way to deal with the difficulties and trials of life? What kind of example did Jesus provide for you and for me? Well, we'd like to look at just several passages of Scripture that show some of the elements of His exampleship.

One is found back in the book of John, in John the sixth chapter, and verse 38. John 6, verse 38. "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who

sent Me.” Again, we see Jesus. We see His life upon this earth. He said, “I came down from heaven to live on this earth.” Why, Jesus, did you do that? To live selfishly? To do your own will? No, that's not what Jesus said, but to do the will of My Father in heaven. So Jesus provided a perfect example in that His goal was always to do the will of the Father. That's something that you and I should imitate.

And then in the book of Matthew, in Matthew, the third chapter, verse 15. Matthew 3, verse 15. Here we see a discussion between Jesus and John the immerser. “But Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he allowed Him.” You'll remember the scene where John had been baptizing and Jesus came to Him, and Jesus wanted to be baptized by John. And John said, “No Lord.” But the Lord told him, “I must do this.” “I must do this,” not for the forgiveness of sins, like you and I need to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, because He did no sin. Then why did He find it necessary to be baptized? He's said, “To fulfill all righteousness.” To do that which is right, no matter what the cost. And there's a perfect example for you and me. We should strive to be like Him, and try, to the best of our human ability, to fulfill all righteousness. Let's work on that in the time between this class and the next time we're allowed to gather together again. Let's strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Follow His perfect example, do the will of the Father, strive to fulfill all righteousness. May we ever try to be more like Him, keeping in mind He is our best friend.