

## Jesus – Friend of Sinners

The Bible tells us that Jesus, when he was walking on this earth, was a friend of sinners. People who made mistakes in life, done wrong and were despised by others were counted among His friends. In fact, He came eating and drinking with them. As a result, He was accused of being a glutton and a drunkard.

He got along real fine with tax collectors – most despised of individuals who often collaborated with the Roman Empire to both tax and cheat the people. He was friend to a woman caught in adultery. He was a friend to many lepers. He was also a friend to a Samaritan woman at the well (she had 5 husbands and was last living with her defacto partner).

In other words, he came to seek and save those that are lost. He did not come to seek the righteous but sinners to repent – to turn from their own ways and follow him.

### Luke 10:25-37 – Story of the Good Samaritan

Read the whole text.

In the story, Jesus taught us how religion treats hurting people and how He treats them. Like the priest and the Levite (religious elite), religion often passed right by the injured man and refused to get involved.

The Good Samaritan showed compassion and mercy, not contempt. He went out of his way to show the love of God to this man who had taken the wrong road, and even paid the cost to restore him. Then he said, “*Go and do likewise.*”

Two important things he is saying;

1. If you do not know Jesus as Saviour - accept him. He is trying to help you. The Friend of sinners is calling you today to show you his love. The Bible tells us that God has an infinite capacity for individual human beings. He cares so much that “*even every hair on a person’s head is numbered.*” Six billion people on earth and He care for each one, one at a time, personally and individually.

You see, Jesus sees us not as we are but as will be when He gets through with us. He sees the good is us. He sees the potential is us. He sees the future in us.

2. The Friend of sinners is also calling us to show his love to a hurting world. Sometimes, churches turn their back on the very people who need it most. Sometimes, as Christian we are too concerned about our image and other issues. Yet Jesus ate with sinners, spent endless hours talking with them and even accepted invitations to stay as guest in their homes. We need to “*go and do likewise*”.