

Knowing Jesus As Friend

Intro: Have you ever gotten your car stuck on the beach...or on a dirt road in the county?

Worst...beach...wheels sink, sand in middle gets under car, holds it up, wheels spin...nothing happens!

That's the way some people are spiritually. Stuck...Wheels are spinning...but something is holding them up, keeping them from going forward. Hear stories of a spiritual life that is significant, meaningful, fulfilling. But they don't experience it. They hear about knowing God, talking with God, being led by God, but that isn't the reality of their life. Something happened 5, 10, 15 years ago, felt God's call in their heart, prayed, went forward, baptized, joined Church, but, that feeling, closeness, connection...faded...and now...Stuck, Going through the motions, wheels spinning in frustration...

That's what I want to talk to you about this morning as we continue our series on Vintage Jesus

As we saw last week there are many different ways of Knowing Jesus

Someone to Ignore Seeker Savior Friend Lord

Today we want to focus on the Fourth...Knowing Jesus As Friend...As we think about that, seems good..and it can be...Also bad! It may well be that if you are STUCK this morning, it is because you have come to think of Jesus as your Friend, not as your Lord!

- **Good:** Familiarity brings Relationship (Done right) Jesus said, In 17, no longer call you servants, call you friends, Abraham, Moses...they were called friends of God. Jesus had 3 disciples Peter, James, John closer than all the others
- **Bad:** When friendship isn't handled correctly it slips over into something else that isn't healthy
Old saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt!"
- **Friend Jesus:** Walks, Talks, Helps, Listen advice..take it when I agree, Spend time when its convenient, Hang out once a week or so, *Familiarity breeds contempt*...Nice addition to my life when I can work Him in
- **Lord Jesus:** My Lord and my God...Say the Word, Because you say so I will...Every area surrendered to your control

Four Areas of Life That Get Us "Stuck"

- **Bad Habits: (Sin)**
Things we know are not pleasing to God but which we are unwilling/unable to break in our life
Call them what you want. Habits, Addictions, Problems, Behavior Issues...
Pornography, Gambling, Overeating, Uncontrolled Tongue, Out of Control Spending, Sexuality out of control, Money, Lust of the Flesh, The Lust of the Eyes, The Pride of Life (1Jn 2:16)
- **Harmful Relationships:**
People we know hurt us spiritually, slow us down, and trip us up, unwilling to let go!
Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Friend that leads us to temptation. Emotional or Physical Affair (Facebook) (1 Cor 15:33)
- **Unresolved Emotional Issues:**
Hurt from past, Pain of yours or others mistakes, Baggage mistakes you others made
Emotional, Psychological struggles you have been unwilling to seek help in resolving.
Not always sin...but something that hangs you up...stuck spiritually...and you have been unwilling to seek help
1Th 5:14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.
- **Not Prioritizing God:**
You know God, have relationship with Him, but He is like a friend that you don't want to be with
Phone rings...Look...say...Let that go to voicemail...Don't call back.
Call on Him when it is convenient, when you NEED Him, when wheels come off...but day to day...Just don't have time
Too many other things you want to do, places need to go, people need to talk to. Besides...Buzz kill anyway..No fun

Here is the Issue...He is your friend..but not a very good one! Not one that you really depend on...Fair weather Friend.

He is the one you call..when no one else is home...Everyone else is busy...Fit Him into your schedule

How can you tell? How much priority do you put on Him?

>Habits He doesn't like...Break relationship with Him? *Keep Habit, Ditch Him*

>Relationships doesn't approve of...Hurt your relationship with Him...Keep people...Ditch Him

>Issues that Rip you apart, keep you from Him...Hold onto them...Ditch Him

>Sunday comes have opportunity to hang out with him...Game is on, family in town, Boat waiting, Sun Shinning....Ditch Him...

So, What is the Solution to that...What kind of Friend Does God WANT to be to us..

What SHOULD it look like?

We see that back in the book of Exodus when Moses relationship with God is being described.
Now, there were a couple of people that were described as Friends of God (Isaiah, Moses) Most extensive explanation

Context: Children of Israel in Desert

Moses has been called up to Mt Sinai to receive 10 Commandments

While he is STILL up there, Before he can even bring them back down..People have already broken them!

Fashioned a Calf Of Gold, Idol, Worshipped and threw party,

Moses is coming down from the mountain with 10 Commandments...Hears the sound of the party

Comes in, destroys the Calf, Judges and punishes those that led the rebellion, and then goes to have a discussion with God

Pick up story in Ex 33: where Moses and God are having a discussion about what to do...

Notice what happens here, because the Children of Israel are STUCK ... God says, I am not going with you to promised land!

Four Keys To A Healthy “Friendship” With God. Ex 33:7-23

- **Surrender the Item, Action, Person that has you STUCK**

Gave up the calf, Gave up the ornaments, gave up relationships

1John 1:9

- **Spend Consistent Time with God: Prioritize God!**

Tent of Meeting: Moses Went...All people knew it

There is no substitute:

Devotions, Sermons, Series on Spiritual Disciplines:

1. Here you go: If you are stuck: Ask you...Do you USE the Disciplines?

Heb 5:14 *“But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*

- **Wanting God More Than His Blessings!**

If you are not going...Don't send us up from here

What do you want? God..or the Benefits of Knowing Him?

Sometimes..The benefits Change!

Sometimes...God calls us to struggle, and suffer for His sake, and if you are serving when its good...cause you to fall

Ex 33:15 *“Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.”*

- **Trusting God to Do For Me What I Cannot Do for Myself.**

Stand Here...

Near me

On a Rock

Where you are covered by my hand

Ex 33:21-22 *“Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by*

Concl: Are you Stuck today?

“The Conditions of my being are such that I cannot live in subjection to myself, but only in being subject to Him. I can never have the mastery of my own heart. Only God has that. So long, then, as I am not united (surrendered) to God, I am divided within myself and at perpetual strife within myself...”

Bernard of Clairvaux 1090-1153 AD

You Have to Surrender to Him!

Friend Vs Lord

It may well be because you are in Relationship with Him...but you are trying to do it on YOUR Terms...and Not His.

I promise you, that will never work

Take your Connection Card

Fill it out

LORDS SUPPER

