WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS II

Text: Matt. 11:16-19, V19

Intro. Jesus was proclaiming to the Jewish people who John the Baptist was. He, then, in the text verses described that generation. That generation called Jesus a gluttonous man and a wine biber. They called Him a friend of publicans and sinners. They didn't mean this as a compliment, but Jesus is a Friend. He is the dearest Friend you will ever have. He is and acts like a Friend to every person.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS is a very dear song that we sing. What a friend He is to us. He is a Friend that sticks closer than a brother. Why is He my very close Friend?

I. JESUS FORGIVES ME.

A. He forgives fully.
1. He pardons iniquity and He delights in mercy. Micah 7:18
   Mercy is God withholding from man what He rightfully deserves.
2. When the Lord forgives you, it is as if you had not sinned. He removes the offense and it's guilt. Matt. 9:2
3. He forgave publicans and harlots fully. He didn't condone their sins, but He forgave them of their sins.
4. He forgave a thief and promised he would be in paradise. He forgave Peter of denying Him.
5. Our Lord forgives and then He cleanses us from the sin. He doesn't hold it against us.

B. He forgives freely.
1. You don't have to pay money for forgiveness.
2. You don't have to do penitence or perform certain things to be forgiven. You can't make up for what you did, but you can be forgiven.

3. You must confess your sins and repent of them. I John 1:9 It is so simple, but it is so hard because of our sinful nature.
4. He forgives any and every time we sin and repent. He doesn't act like we do. Maybe, that is why we can't understand the way He forgives of sin.
5. He welcomes the sinner to come and be cleansed of sin.

C. He forgives fervently.

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1. Notice His fervency to the guilty adulterous woman.
2. Notice how Paul describes it in Eph. 4:32. He used the terms kind and tenderhearted.
3. Jesus heartily invites everyone to come to Him and receive forgiveness of sins. I John 1:9
4. In Micah 7:18 we are told He delights in showing mercy and forgiveness.

II. JESUS FREES ME.
A. He frees fully.
1. It is the truth that makes us free. John 8:32 The truth of the written word will free us from many things. The truth, the Living Word, also makes us free. That is why Jesus is referred to as the Deliverer and Saviour.
2. We are free indeed when Jesus frees us. John 8:36 He gives to us that ultimate freedom that man is not able to give.
3. He frees us from sin, self, and Satan. I Pet. 5:8,9 All of these makes us captives and en-slaves us.
4. We are children of the light. I Thess. 5:5 We are not captives any longer, but we are free.
B. He frees freely.
1. What does our freedom cost us? It doesn't cost us anything. Jesus paid the ransom price for our freedom on the cross of calvary.
2. Our freedom cost the Lord His life on the cruel tree of death and shame.
3. He doesn't charge us anything for our freedom. He gives us our freedom willingly and freely.
C. He frees us fervently.
1. He wants to free every lost sinner. They are slaves to the Devil and his will.
2. He wants to free every saint of God shackled by sin and it's effect in their lives.
3. His desire is that we be free. Live free. Die free. He is so fervent and caring in making us free.

III. JESUS FIRES ME UP.
A. He fires up freely.
1. He can start a fire in your bones. Jer. 20:19 This man of God found that out. Jesus can start a fire in your heart and life if you will give Him the opportunity.
2. He wants me to live a zealous life. Tit. 2:14 He came to give that more abundant life. John 10:10
3. He doesn't charge me anything for firing me up.
B. He fires me up fully.
1. He wants me fired up to live life to it's fullest.
2. He wants me to serve, play, work, face problems, and worship Him fully fired up and fueled up.
3. He will give you a reason for living and loving to live. He can fire you up to where others see the fire in your speech, attitudes, actions, and the way you serve.
C. He fires up fervently.
1. He came to give us life more abundantly. John 10:10
2. He can give you a zest and zeal for living at 50 or 70.
3. He gives men life. He lights a light within us to live.

IV. JESUS FEEDS ME.
A. He feeds us fully.
1. He provides the food for my body. Matt. 6 He has given my food for 48 years and I believe He will continue to do it as long as I live.
2. He doesn't multiply 5 loaves and 2 fish and feed 5,000, but He does provide the food my body needs daily. Matt. 6:33
3. He provides the food for my soul. I Pet. 2:2Peter speaks of a spiritual food that God's people need.
4. The Lord takes care of my physical, material, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual needs every day.
B. He feeds me freely.
1. What could a lily pay for the food God gives to it? What could a fowl of the air pay for it's food? Matt. 6
2. The Lord takes care of the animals. He also takes care of us because we are worth more to Him than animals.
3. He does so freely. He doesn't send us a bill each month. I couldn't afford to pay for His monthly care. He just wants us to live for Him and give Him the glory.
C. He feeds me fervently.
1. He made a promise to the Jews in Mal. 3:8-10. He kept that promise to them.

2. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Ps. 23:1 He provides food, water, and rest.

3. He fervently provides that heavenly manna to us, like He did the physical manna in the wilderness.

V. JESUS FINANCES ME.

A. He finances me fully.
1. Without the Lord we wouldn't make it through the night. Ps. 3:5

2. Without Him we couldn't make it through this life. Mal. 3:10 He gives us the job, health, ability, opportunity, and mind to work.

3. He blesses us with the needs of life, but He provides for all of our needs abundantly.

B. He finances me freely.
1. I have a partner in life. He provides the capital for my business and ask that I honor Him with 10%.

2. The interest is very great for not honoring Him, but He puts up the whole capital up front.

3. Each life is filled with God's blessings and provisions.

4. He doesn't charge us for His services. He freely gives to us and provides for us. He will one day call upon us to give an account of our lives.

C. He finances me fervently.
1. He loves to provide for me. He makes sure I have more than enough.

2. He gives me above what I need and ask that I be a good steward.

3. I enjoy many fringe benefits. God truly is good to each of us.

4. His goodness leads man to repentance of sins. Rom. 2:4

VI. JESUS FIGURES ME OUT.

A. He figures me out fully.
1. He knows me better than I know myself. He has all power to look down into my heart and see things that I don't even know that are there.

2. He knows me better than my wife, friends, children, or even the Devil.

3. He knows what is in my heart,

on my mind, and what I fear and am bothered by.

4. He knows me like a book from cover to cover.

B. He figures me out freely.
1. He is the counsellor and Almighty God. He doesn't need any kind of a degree because He is God.

2. He knows me and knows what I need and seeks to provide it without charge.

3. He is a friend that does everything for me and writes NO CHARGE for His instruction and exhortations.

C. He figures me out fervently.
1. He examines me emotionally, mentally, and spiritually regularly.

2. He seeks to meet my needs in all those areas daily.

3. He is on the job. He is doing a work within. He seeks to examine the need, educate me to the need, and exhorts me to let Him meet the need fervently.

4. You don't bother the Lord. He wants to help and will if we allow Him to.
PATIENCE

Text: I Timothy 6:11

Introduction:
A. PURPOSE of messages
1. If we are to live efficiently and effectively and be blessed, we must establish some goals in our lives and pursue them relentlessly.
2. Establish the specific objectives and depend upon the Lord to help you to acquire them.

B. PROPOSED evaluation
1. Do you have a need for patience?
2. We often joke about it because, quite honestly, we're convicted because of our lack of it.
3. Our society is making it quite difficult to be patient people because of the pace of life that is hectic and produces stressfulness.
4. Make definite steps to learn patience.

C. PRESENTATION
1. The MEANING of patience.
2. The MOTIVATION for patience.
3. The METHODOLOGY of patience.

I. THE MEANING OF PATIENCE.

A. Related to the PERCEPTION of waiting on God.
2. Patience is that attitude that allows us to wait upon God.
3. How does this work? The Lord knows what He is doing and He has every intention of doing it. He's going to do it in His own way and His own time.
   a. Illus: How God makes an oak tree from an acorn.
   b. Illus: How God exemplified patience in redeeming the human race. (Procured salvation and now desires it to be proclaimed.)
   c. Waiting upon God means to believe God knows what He is doing - committed to doing it in His own way, at His own speed and agreeing with it.
   d. God works on the basis of eternity.
   e. Our society believes we have the right to have everything we desire delivered to us yesterday.
   f. Micah 7:5-7
   g. Isaiah 40:31.

B. Related to PERSISTENCE. Luke 8:15 "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."
1. This is the aspect of willingness to be persistent with that which God is doing.
2. Illus: We want the seed producing now.
3. This means to be persistent in doing what I know I should be doing.

C. Related to PRESSURE. John 16:33
1. Tribulation here is related to patience.
2. Believers, in a non-believing society, will encounter pressure.
3. Learning how to cope with pressuring situations.
   a. Remember that the pressure is by Divine permission - this will change your attitude and outlook.
   b. Our part is to learn what is to be learned under this pressure which would probably never be learned had we not had the pressure.
   c. The Greek word for patience means "to abide under pressure." (Abide in God in a new dimension.)
   d. Don't devote your energies in ridding yourself of the pressure but abide and learn from this pressure.

D. Related to PRODUCTIVITY. Rom. 2:7
1. Producing in us stickability - steadfastness.

E. Related to PERSECUTION. II Thess. 1:4
1. Beware of the 'rose garden' philosophy.
2. Look at what Christ encountered.
3. Persecution is inevitable.

F. Related to PAIN.

II. THE MOTIVATION FOR PATIENCE.

A. Incentive of identifying with God. Rom. 15:4,5
1. Patience is a part of the nature of God.
2. Look how patient God is with us.
   II Pet. 3:9
3. If I'm to learn more about Him, I must be identified with this attribute.

B. Incentive of identifying with Christ.
   Heb. 12:1,2
C. Incentive of identifying with the aspect of love. I Cor. 13:7
D. Incentive of identifying with the aspect of hope. Rom. 8:25
E. Incentive of identifying with the aspect of concern.

III. THE METHODOLOGY OF PATIENCE.

A. Adopt a right attitude - stickability.
B. Actively involve yourself in prayer, faith, Bible study, and church fellowship.
C. Establish patience towards the person you are impatient with.
   1. Pray about the person and situation.
   2. Watch out however, about praying for patience. Rom. 5:5

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FOUR FALLEN GENERATIONS
By Luther Crawford

Text: Prov. 30:11-14
Intro:
A. The word generation as used in this portion of scripture means "a class of people."
B. Since sin entered into the human race these FOUR classes of people have existed.
C. It seems to me in a special way that the inspired writer is describing the world just prior to the second coming of Christ! He is describing our own day and time. He could well be describing YOU or a son, or a daughter, or a friend, or someone you know. I trust you would NOT be classified in either of these four generations, but if so, then make a change TODAY!

I. A GENERATION THAT DISRESPECTS AND DISHONORS PARENTS! V11
A. Herein we find a class of people that is mean. They may not mean to be mean, yet DISRESPECT to parents is one of the worst kinds of MEAN!
B. Perhaps a worse meanness is parents who are mean to their children!
C. This verse says there is a generation, a class of people, could be old or young, that curses their father and doth not bless their mother!
D. Herein is a breakdown of the oldest institution in the history of mankind, the HOME.
   1. Through home life and parenthood, God's purpose for people is projected. God said to the first parents, populate the earth!
   2. Through the seed of woman God would in due time bring forth His Son, to suffer, sacrifice, and die for the sins of the world.
E. No wonder the Devil early in the history of the human race began to invade the HOME seeking to destroy the backbone of humanity.

1. Cain killed his brother.
2. Cain dishonored parents and God in this act.
3. Thank God it didn't destroy the home, nor the faith line, GOD RAISED UP SETH.

II. HERE IS A GENERATION OF PLUNDERERS! V14
A. Here is a class of people that is MEAN! They know they are mean. They mean to be mean. Their teeth are like swords-knives. Their purpose in life is to devour.
B. They rob, steal, plunder, kill you at the drop of a hat. They start wars, cause riots. They push dope.
C. They are often in places of high authority. They are power seekers, pleasure seekers, and prosperity seekers.
D. They have no respect for God. They laugh at God, but God will have the last laugh.

III. THERE IS A GENERATION THAT IS PROUD. V13
A. Here is described a class of people who are mean and can't see it.
B. Lofty eyes and lifted up eyelids are symbols of pride.
C. They are better than anybody else, they are haughty.
D. Pride is classified as one of the SEVEN DEADLY SINS.
   1. Proverbs 21:4 "An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked is sin."
   2. Proverbs 16:5 "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished."
E. PRIDE is the prelude to destruction. Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."
F. PRIDE comes from conceit. Proverbs 26:12 Pride begins with self esteem, brings deception (Gal. 6:3) shame. "When pride cometh, then cometh shame:" Prov. 11:2. Pride brings a man low. Prov. 29:23 "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit."

IV. THERE IS A GENERATION, PURE IN THEIR OWN EYES, BUT ARE STILL NOT WASHED. V12
A. Here is described a CLASS of people who are MEAN and won't admit it.
B. In their own eyes, they are PURE, that is they don't see themselves as sinners separated from God and on the way to hell.
C. These are like the Pharisees of Christ's day.
   1. Clean outside and rotten inside.
   2. Believe good works will save.
D. These cannot see the need to REPENT and BELIEVE in Christ.

Conclusion:
A. The four fallen generations we have
talked about today are indeed prevalent with our generation. Their influence in the world has certainly been the cause of much grief.

B. But remember God has always had His remnant:
1. A class of people who reverenced HIM.
2. A class of people who believed HIM.
3. A class of people who worshipped HIM.
4. A class of people who serve HIM.
C. I desire to be in that class of people who by and through the grace of God have saved themselves FROM THIS CROOKED GENERATION!

A GOOD AND GODLY DESIRE

Text: I Tim. 3:1

Introduction:
A. God's pastors are SPECIAL.
2. Cleansed vessels. II Tim. 2:21,16,22
3. Convicted vessels. (Convictions hold men)
   a. I know. II Tim. 1:12; I Cor. 15:10
   b. Convinced by the Word. II Tim. 2:15
   b. Rom. 9:29
   c. As the early preachers were complimented. Acts 4:13
5. Constrained vessels. II Cor. 5:14
6. Concerned vessels.
   a. Caring for the sheep. John 21:15-7
   b. Seeking those gone astray. Gal. 6:1
   c. Calling out to the sinner. Rom. 10:1
7. Compassionate vessels. Mark 6:34; Hebs. 5:2

B. The people of the Lord in the churches are to hold God's messengers and pastors in HIGH REGARD. I Tim. 5:17; Hebs. 13:17

C. God's messenger, Pastor Shepherd EARNS THIS KIND OF RESPECT BY:
1. Denying that which damages. This often times includes DENYING SELF AND OR SELF INDULGENCE.
2. Depressing demoralizing desires of the flesh and of the mind.
3. Despising the despicable. (Contemptible)
4. Destroying the DESTRUCTIVE DROWSINESS

(Lethergy). Prov. 6:6
5. Denouncing that which defiles.
6. Dethroning the deceiver!! James 4:7

D. The positive side of God's bishop who desires and allows God to do a good work in and through him.

I. HE DELIGHTS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD.
A. His practice. Psalm 1:2,3
B. His preparation. Ezra 7:10; II Tim. 2:15; I Pet. 3:15
   Feed, fuel, and fortify the lambs and sheep.

II. DEPENDS UPON THE LORD.

Looks to the Lord for DIRECTION.
A. Looks to the Lord for DIRECTION.
   1. John 10:4
   2. He is a leader. Psa. 23:3
   3. He leads by His Word of Instruction for actions.
   4. He also leads by His Holy Spirit. Acts 8:29

B. Leans on the Lord for DEVELOPMENT.
   1. In the sense of John 15:5.
   2. Paul spoke of it. Phil. 2:13
   3. He will do it. Phil. 1:6; Nehemiah 2:8,18

C. Relied on the Lord for defense.
   1. As David before Goliath. I Sam. 17:47
   2. As Nehemiah. 4:20
   3. As Paul. II Tim. 4:14-17

III. DEVELOPS PASTORAL LEADERSHIP.

A. God calls men to be preachers, teachers, soul winners and He also calls them to be leaders.
   1. God's call to Moses. Exod. 3:10
   2. God's call to Joshua at the death of Moses. Josh. 1:2

B. Lead by:
   1. Example. Paul to Timothy. I Tim. 4:12
   2. Lead by Exhortation. Hebs. 3:13,10,24
   3. To Timothy. I Tim. 6:2; II Tim. 4:2; I Tim. 4:13
    
C. Lead by Endeavor. Prov. 29:18; Isaiah 6:1-8; Acts 16:9,10

IV. DEEPENS HIS LOYALTY. (Faithfulness to Person and Cause)

A. Required I Cor. 4:2
B. Respected. Hebs. 3:1,2
C. Revealing to others. Phil. 1:14
D. Rewarded as one stands before the judgment seat of Christ. II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:21; II Tim. 4:7,8
E. Review these passages. Matt. 15:7-9; I John 3:18; James 1:22

V. DISPLAYS HIS LIGHT.

A. In your Walk. I John 1:7; Eph. 5:8;
VI. DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE.
A. Personal Testimony. I John 3:14
B. Public Testimony. John 13:35
C. Practical truths concerning love.
1. Love loves for love's sake. John 3:16
2. Love loves in spite of that one knows. John 3:16
4. Love sacrifices for the sake of others. John 10:11
5. Love seeks out the unloveable. Luke 19:14; John 4

VII. DISTRIBUTES LOVINGLY.
A. The example. II Cor. 8:2; Romans 12:13
B. Paul acknowledges such. Phil. 4:16;

14. Ask God to give you the grace to lead His church in a program that will give Him the most glory...and to give you the guts and grace to do it.
15. Stand for God and His truth if you have to stand alone.

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DEPARTING OF THE MERCHANTS
By Wesley Waldrum

Text; John 2:12-17

I. PARTING OF THE FAMILY. V:12
A. THE PLACE HE CHOSE.
B. THE PEOPLE HE CARRIED.
C. THE PERIOD OF TIME HE CONTINUED.

II. PASSOVER FEAST. V:13
A. SACRED TRADITION.
B. SACRED TIME.
C. SACRED TOWN.
D. SACRED TEMPLE.

III. POLLUTION FOUND. V:14
A. THE ABUSE OF THE PEOPLE.
B. THE ABUSE OF THE PLACE.
C. THE ABUSE OF THEIR PRIVILEGES.

IV. PUNISHMENT FORCED. VS:15,16
A. HE HAD CONVICTION.
B. HE SHOWED COURAGE.
C. HE CAUTIONED THE MEN.
D. HE CLEANSED THE TEMPLE.

V. PROPHECY FULFILLED. V:17
A. THE THOUGHT THEY COMPELLED.
B. THE TIME OF THE CONTENTS.
C. THE TRUTH OF THE COMPARISON.

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THE PRECIOUS CORNER STONE
By Joe Stevens

Intro. Jesus, Luke, and Peter all make reference to the Old Testament (Psa.118:22,23) reference to Christ as the corner stone that the builders rejected. John 1:11 states that "He came unto his own and his own received him not." In this way the precious corner stone was rejected by his own.

The tradition has it that when the temple was being built, the workers discovered a stone among the building blocks that seemed to be misfit. Soon they discovered that this particular stone was what they needed for the corner stone or foundation stone. Without Jesus no life, home, or church is complete because he is the precious corner stone.

I. THE CORNER STONE OF OUR SOUL SALVATION.

A. A soul will never be saved until Jesus is accepted as the corner stone. Acts 4:12
   1. Stack up all of ones good works.
   2. Add in baptism and church membership.
   3. And you still do not have salvation.

B. Many will die in their sin because they left Jesus out and tried to make it on their own.

C. The acceptance of Jesus is a personal thing. "If thou...with thy...in thine...Rom. 10:9,10

D. Jesus, the sure foundation, provides a sure salvation.
   1. The Rock of our salvation stands fast.
   2. The foundation cannot be moved.
   3. Some critics of this great truth will say, "If I believed like that I could go out and sin all I want to and still be saved."

A statement like that reveals two things.
   a. A lack of sincerity and love.
   b. A lack of understanding of the new creature in Christ.

B. Jesus is the corner stone of your salvation and without Him it will never be complete.

II. THE CORNER STONE OF OUR SPIRITUAL BUILDING.

A. We are called upon to build upon the foundation that has been laid, which is Christ.

B. As we build we must build around Christ's words and example.
   1. Include plenty of good works.
   2. Add an abundance of love, patience, forgiveness, compassion, and mercy.
   3. Grow in grace and knowledge.

C. A spiritual building built on anything else will be like the man who built his house on the sand. Matt. 7:26,27

D. Our spiritual building will be put to the test. If Jesus is not the chief corner stone the building will be lost. I Cor. 3:11-15

III. THE CORNER STONE OF OUR FUTURE BLESSINGS.

A. "Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness." On Christ the solid rock I stand...

B. Because He is a living stone, we to have the hope of the future resurrection and life eternal.

C. Every future blessing from God is based on obtained through Christ.

D. God will never allow one to enjoy the future that has rejected the precious Corner Stone.

Con. Are you guilty of casting aside the Chief Corner Stone? If so, wise up and recognize the futility of such rejection.

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