

Week 5 on Friendship: What I like about Jesus!
Pastor Peter Smith, 03-13-16

Review: Some Qualities of Friendship:

- Real friends **care** for you
 - Real friends **protect** you
 - Real friends **encourage** you
 - Real friends make you **laugh**!
 - Real friends care **spiritually** about you!
- Have you made anyone laugh this week? Encouraged them to continue in life? If so, you were being a friend!

Today I want you to think about Jesus and your friendship circles.

Why Jesus? For you?

- What do you like about Him?
- Why Jesus, and not someone else?
- What do you tell others about Him?

People who brought others to Jesus (told their story)

- Andrew brought Peter
- Philip brought Nathaniel
- A Samaritan lady brought her village
- Even Parents brought their kids for blessings

How did they do it? What did they say?

1. I met him

- Andrew

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." John 1:37-39

- The ball was rolling
- What did he see in Jesus? It grabbed his heart and he followed him

“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.” -Vss. 41-42
I met Him. Then what? We say,

2. I **liked** Him. Why?

- **He is** the Savior. The only one.
- **How Convinced of that are we?**

In life:

- Your new TV, is *the best*. Right?
- Your child / grandkid is born, *YOURS* is the *cutest / sweetest / quietest / sweetest / cutest* little baby ever born!
- Ladies, when you find a place that does your nails, you tell EVERYBODY about your experience and why they need to go!
- *I like to* shop for low Gas prices. If its 10 or 15 cents lower I take a pic and post it on FB. I’m sharing the Value of what I like about the low price.

What do you like about Jesus?

That is what you should tell your friends then:

- That he is the lover of your soul;
- How He has fully accepted you;
- How he has offered you a 2nd chance...

What has he done for you?

- Delivered you (from something? Drugs, jail, painful relationship?
- Has he Adopted you?
- Satisfied your searching heart? Shown up in your life *for real*

Mark 6:54-56 says,

“As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They

begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.”

What did these friends / family members think of Jesus?
What did they tell others? *They brought them to Jesus!*

So if we Met Him, and we Like Him, then we need to say

3. You might like him too! (Come and see!)

John 1:46...Philip tells Nathaniel, who is skeptical of anything good from a town like Nazareth, says, **“Come and see!”**

Friendship evangelism (sharing our faith):

- People we know, hang out with
- Jesus started with Andrew, Peter, Philip, all from Bethsaida, and maybe James and John, too
- Jesus healed a blind man in their town (Mark 8:22-26)

Remember: most of what we learn we catch.

Same with Jesus. We will ‘catch’ (both positively and negatively) things about our Savior:

Psychiatrists say Kids’ personality traits are developed by the age of 3! Yikes!! *How can that be?*

- Laid back / outgoing, quiet / loud, Screamers / level headed....
- Parents and grandparents: our kids watch us and imitate us so it’s set early on in life

Same way with spiritual life:

- We watch and catch maybe more than we learn
Scary question: How many sermons do you remember growing up, or from ME? Be honest!

-1 or 2 at best? Maybe a series sticks out but you can’t recall the points, etc.

-But I remember the time my pastor gave me a 2nd chance when I really blew it.. in fact, a couple of times.

Question: Am I telling people positive things about Jesus, about our church?

- If it's positive, great things can happen! Listen to a lady's story in John

Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4:28-30, 39-42, NLT)

- She has no name like others
- Yet she helped many follow Jesus!
- Her life is messed up relationally (sleeping around)
- And then she meets Jesus, and likes him enough to go and tell her friends... listen to her story:

"The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" So the people came streaming from the village to see him...

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!"...he stayed for two days, long enough for many more to hear his message and believe.

Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

I met Him, I liked Him, You might Like Him too!

Real friends care spiritually for their friends.

- Andrew did.
- Philip did.
- A lady who found hope did.
- And someone cared enough to bring you to Jesus.

Will you be a real friend and invite someone to follow Jesus this week? To Friend's Day?

My Next step this week:

I will tell a positive story about Jesus or my Church to a friend this week, so they may want to Like Him too.