

FRIEND OF TAX-COLLECTORS AND SINNERS

Pg 1

[List](#)

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon." The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Behold a gluttonous man, and a wine drinker (a drunk person), a **Friend of Tax-collectors and Sinners.**" But wisdom is justified by her children." (Matthew 11:18-19)

Friend: from the Greek word *philos* which means: "a friend; someone dearly loved."

Tax-Collector: from the Greek word *telones* which means: a publican, collector of taxes. (Usually a person who gathered public taxes, for profit, from his fellow countrymen for the Roman Empire; and was despised and hated for doing so.)

Sinner: from the Greek word *hamartolos* which means: "a sinful person; (derived from the Greek word *hamartano* which means: "to miss the mark, to do wrong, to make a mistake. to sin."

Jesus mentions three accusations that were spoken against Him by the religious hypocrites. Two were in context false; but one was altogether true: Jesus was a **Friend of Tax-collectors and Sinners.**

Consider these verses:

"Then drew near unto Him **all the tax-collectors and sinners** for to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners, and eats with them." And He spoke this parable unto them, saying, "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." I say unto you, that likewise **there shall be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Or what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, does not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and her neighbors together, saying, "Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost." **Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**" (Luke 15:1-10)

"And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, who was the chief among the tax-collectors, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was; and could not because of the crowd, because he was short of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him: for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at your house. And he made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it (i.e.), they all murmured, saying, "He has gone to be guest with a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore to him fourfold." And Jesus said unto him, **This day salvation has come to this house**, because he also is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**" (Luke 19:1-10)

"What a friend we have in Jesus! All our sins and griefs He bore!
What a privilege it is to carry our every need to Him in prayer!"

FRIEND OF TAX-COLLECTORS AND SINNERS

Pg 2

"And as Jesus passed forth from there, He saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the tax-collectors-booth: and He said unto him, "Follow me." And he arose, and followed Jesus. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at mealtime in the house, behold, many tax-collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Master eat with tax-collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, "Those who are whole do not need a physician, but those who are sick do. But go you and learn what this means, "I will have mercy, and not sacrifice," (see Hosea 6:6) for I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Matthew 9:9-13)

Consider this passage from Isaiah chapter 53:

"He is despised and rejected of men; a **Man of Sorrows**, and **acquainted with grief**: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. **Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows**: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. He was bruised for our iniquities; and He was wounded for our transgressions; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and **by His stripes we are healed**. We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all**. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not his mouth. He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who shall declare His generation? For He was cut off out of the land of the living: **for the transgression of My people was He stricken**. And He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief, when You shalt make His soul **an offering for sin**, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied. By His knowledge shall My righteous servant justify many; **for He shall bear their iniquities**. Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He has poured out His soul unto death; and He was numbered with the transgressors; **and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**" (Isaiah 53:3-13)

Truly, truly, truly, Jesus is a friend of sinners! For people like me and you He did lay down His life for the forgiveness of our sins! And we are His friends, if we do what He commands us; to love one another, just as He has loved us. Finally consider this statement from Jesus:

"This is My commandment, **That you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you.**" (John 15:12-14)

Thus is the wisdom of Jesus justified by His children! (see Matthew 11:19)
We are His Children!

JESUS IS ...

a Friend of Sinners ...

... people like me and you !! - What a Wonderful Friend we have in Jesus!!

**Jesus You are my Savior, my King, my Lord, and my Shepherd!
Jesus You are our Life, our Hope, our Advocate, and our Teacher!**

Lord Jesus You are My FRIEND !! Always and always; Forever and ever - Amen!