

July 23, 2017
Series: Friending
Part 2: A Friend of Sinners, but Not the World
Shay Robbins

1. Do you have a friend who wouldn't consider coming to church? Why?
2. It was said that we come from rebellion and disobedience. How is that manifested in our lives and in those around us?
3. What kind of friend to sinners was Jesus? What can we learn from that when dealing with people whom some religious people judge and avoid?
4. Shay said a man named Shawn Peterson led him to the light and he has put his name by James 5:20 in his Bible: "Remember this whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins."
 - a. Who has led you to the light?
 - b. Who would write your name by James 5:20?
5. Read John 8:2-11. What do you think Jesus was writing on the ground?
6. Do you think remembering yourself at your worst would keep you from condemning others or help you be more merciful?
7. Have you ever "blessed a stranger"? How has someone affected you with kindness? Do you agree with Dick Foth that "kindness is the currency of heaven"? Can you think of a way you might bless others this week?
8. Shay said the Christian faith is not supposed to be safe. C.S. Lewis says it this way in *The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Aslan, the lion in this Christian fantasy, represents Jesus:

(Mrs. Beaver says) "If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."
"Then is he safe?" said Lucy.
"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver, "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

In what way does this point of view seem true to you? In what way is God not safe but is good?
9. James 4:4 says something that may sound strange, given Jesus's love of sinners: "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."
 - a. Remember God so loved the world he gave us his son, so describe the world that we aren't to be friends with.
 - b. What happens when we love the world rather than God?

10. How does sin in the lives of Christians become a stumbling block to those who need to know God's love and truth? **(It makes us gun shy about sharing and also ineffective if we do since the "world" considers us hypocrites.)**
11. Have you ever been tempted and found that God has provided a way to escape it just as scripture says in I Cor. 10:13?
12. II Cor. 4:4 says people are blinded and cannot see "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God."
 - a. How can we interact with these people and be a friend to the spiritually blind as Jesus was?
 - b. This verse says Jesus is the image of God. What, then, do we know about God for sure?
13. Read Matthew 5:13-16. In what way are Christians salt and light in our world?