

Friend of Sinners: Friend of the Crowd
Oct. 20, 2019
Sermon by Ted Cunningham

1. Jesus attracted large crowds without compromising the truth. How did he do this? (See Matthew 9:36)
2. Matthew 7:28 and 22:33 say that the crowds were **amazed** and **astonished** at his teaching. Why? What was different about Jesus teaching?
3. Mark 12:37 (NASB) says the large crowd **enjoyed** listening to Him. The NIV says the large crowd listened to him with **delight**. **Read Mark 12:1-40** What characteristics of Jesus' teaching in this passage created the crowd's response?
4. Ted said many in the crowd were seeking relief more than truth. When you go to Jesus, which are you usually seeking? Why is it important for us to share physical relief when we share spiritual relief?
5. **Read James 2:15-16** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? If you don't have money to give to the poor or sick, in what other ways can you show compassion toward them?
6. Ted said we don't believe in behavior modification. How does a person find true change? (Read Romans 2:4; 2 Cor. 5:17; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Psalm 143:10)
7. What crucial element did Jesus exhibit while teaching truth? In practice, how can we exhibit this characteristic while not being soft on sin or watering down the gospel?
8. When the religious leaders called Jesus a friend of sinners (Luke 7:34), they were criticizing him. Have you ever been judged by believers for your relationship with sinners? Please share.
9. **Read Luke 5:29-32** Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Tell about a time when you responded to Jesus' call to repentance.

10. Ted challenged us to move from the crowd -- to the congregation -- to the committed. Where do you find yourself today? What is your next step to move toward greater commitment to Christ, to the church, or to see the lost saved?