

## NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Luke 15:1-2

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Jesus often got into trouble with the religious authorities over the kind of people He was with a lot of His time. It was not easy to get in to see the religious authorities as it is even today to see the Pope or anybody of any "so called 'importance.'" Yet with Jesus nobody had to have an appointment and He never turned anybody away and therefore some of the most poor and repulsive people (according to what the religious authorities thought) followed Jesus and He openly and freely ministered to them, thus creating tension for those who thought they were better. Comparing Jesus' gentle manners with those of other popular figures finds none of them of any time or age equal to Jesus in tenderness and availability to all classes of people.

### I. JESUS WAS/IS EASILY APPROACHABLE BY ANYONE

#### 1. His actions attracted much attention.

- Jesus was Mediator between God and man.
  - Jesus had to know God as well as people.
  - Jesus joined heaven and earth.
  - As mediator, Jesus had to be open to available to all people.
- Jesus was a priest.
  - A priest was "one of the people" chosen to make intercession for the sinful and the sorrowful.
  - Jesus was touched with a feeling for the infirmities of others and was tempted in all ways as others were, yet He remained without sin.
  - One may be an outcast, separated from other people, but one is not separated from the great priest, the friend of sinners who is willing that ALL should draw near to Him.
- Jesus is Savior.
  - How could Jesus be Savior unless He could be approached by those who need to be saved and that includes every human being?
  - Jesus was like the good Samaritan who saw the same injured man that two others had seen but passed him by, instead of passing by, stopped and helped the injured man.
  - Nothing is bad enough to cause Jesus to walk away, to bypass, to go around, to ignore to refuse to save.

#### 2. Jesus had many names/titles.

- Jesus was called the "Lamb."
  - Who could be afraid of a gentle lamb?
  - Little children want to put their hands upon the head of a lamb, there is no fear.
  - Why would anyone be afraid of such a gentle person as Jesus?
- Jesus was called a Shepherd.
  - No one was afraid of a shepherd.
  - The sheep are not afraid of their shepherd for he cares for and protects them.
  - As one's shepherd, there is no fear for Jesus will care for and protect His own.
- Jesus was called "Brother."
  - Who would be afraid to not call upon his/her brother when in distress or need?
  - How can one avoid not coming to such a fellow "brother" as Jesus?

- Jesus was called "Friend."
  - What kind of friend is a person who could not be approached by those he says he loves?
  - What kind of friend would refuse to come to the door when a friend stands outside knocking?
  - Jesus is "friend" to all who come to Him.

3. Jesus was as human as anybody else.

- Jesus was indeed God, whom one might stand at a distance and shake at the splendor of His majesty, but Jesus was also as much a human being as anybody else.
- Just think of His birth which is celebrated at "Christmas."
- Think of Jesus as being exactly as YOU are except for no sin.
- One would bow and not look directly into the face of Moses or some other great person, but with Jesus, there is no looking down or away, no covering one's face, no shaking in fear for the face of Jesus is so kind, gentle and sweet.
  - If Jesus were to walk into this room this very minute, who would not reach out to touch Him and cry out His name?
- ***"...Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out..."***

4. Jesus' words were so kind and friendly and included all.

- ***"...Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest..."*** ***"...If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink..."*** ***"...Ye will not come unto Me that ye might have life..."*** ***"...O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not..."***
- All Jesus' sermons were loving calls to poor aching hearts to come and find what they needed in Him. ***"...Come now, and let us reason together; though your sins be red like crimson, they shall be as wool..."***

5. Jesus' ways and manners revealed how approachable He was to all people.

- From Jesus' active lifestyle, it is very clear that He was most approachable by all people.
- People from all over, of all ages, with all sorts of ailments and needs came rushing to Jesus every where He went.
  - Some brought their children and Jesus always welcomed the little children.
  - People of bad reputation came to Him.
  - People in need of healing came to Him.
  - Jesus was always preaching and often got tired as any other person would and He needed to back off now and then, but the multitude kept coming, following Him everywhere He went and He had to get into a boat now and then to get away but Jesus was never angry, upset or uttered unkind, selfish words.
- Jesus graciously received the weak and feeble ones who came to Him and He sent none away empty.

6. Jesus who lived such a life of service to others died the death of a thief/crook.

- Look at this gentle, kind, loving person hanging from a cross.
  - Look at His hands, His feet, pierced with nails.
  - Look at the cruel crown of thorns shoved down upon His head.
  - Listen to Him tell the thief hanging on a cross beside Him, ***"...Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise..."***

- Who would dare stand back from this crucified Jesus? Surely no one need to be afraid to come to Jesus who went to Calvary for all sinners?
- Why linger? Why hesitate?

## II. JESUS' LOVE FOR EVERYONE ILLUSTRATED

1. Jesus opens the way for all people to come to Him.
  - Any person feeling the need of Jesus' help trusts Jesus. Remember those who came to Jesus? Why?
  - No good works, no ceremonies, no experiences demanded, just a child-like faith is the pathway that leads to Jesus.
2. Any person who comes to Jesus seeking help, gets it.
  - Jesus never refuses those who seek Him and come to Him and even once said "*...Compel them to come in...*"
  - The Holy Spirit draws people to Jesus.
3. Jesus is easily reached.
  - How easy it is to reach Jesus' heart and ears.
    - A prayer, a tear, a groan, a need will give a person immediate access into Jesus' presence.
    - No matter the time, no matter the circumstance, no matter the attitude, Jesus can be reached.
4. Jesus accepts whatever is offered, no matter how sparse or poor.
  - The very holiest deeds which one can do for Jesus are still poor and faulty at their best.
  - Jesus accepts whatever one offers to Him out of love and service.
5. Jesus has never rejected any person seeking Him.
  - "*...Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out...*"
  - If Jesus had ever cast away or refused a single soul how could He be priest, brother, friend, shepherd, Savior to all mankind?

## CONCLUSION:

1. Let every Christian try to be like Jesus Christ and not be proud, stuck-up, distant or formal. Be like Jesus!
2. Since Jesus is so approachable and turns no one away, then let every needy person come to Him NOW!
3. There is mercy to be had, hell to be escaped from, heaven to be opened and Jesus is the ONLY one who can do that - Now is the time, Jesus is waiting.
4. IF Jesus be such a Savior as you have just heard described, then let Saints and sinners join together and praise Him!