

What More Could Jesus Do?

John 15:13-15

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Intro: *What does it take to convince you of true friendship?*

- A. What does it take for someone to show that they really have your best interests at heart?
 1. Two men were out hunting in the northern U.S. Suddenly one yelled and the other looked up to see a grizzly charging them. The first started to frantically put on his tennis shoes and his friend anxiously asked, "What are you doing? Don't you know you can't outrun a grizzly bear?" "I don't have to outrun a grizzly. I just have to outrun you!"
 2. What if he said, "You take off, I'll keep the bear occupied!"
 3. This is certainly not how most people operate.
- B. We live in a cynical time.
 1. People question those closest to them, suspect everyone's motives.
 2. Popular motto: "Trust No One!"
 3. True of Herod the Great who thought that everyone, even his most loved wife, had designs on his throne:
 - a. Herod's murder of his wife Mariamne I apparently haunted him. This was compounded when his two sons from that marriage, Alexander and Aristobulus, realized that their father was responsible for their mother's death. By 7 B. C., Herod had both of these sons put to death. Of Herod it was said, "It is better to be Herod's hog than to be his son." Herod became increasingly ill, an intense struggle for succession to his throne emerged within the family. His 10 marriages and 15 children virtually guaranteed such a struggle. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (C) 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)
 - b. Herod died lonely, frustrated, paranoid, and bitter in spite of support those closest to him gave.
- C. It's the same concerning Jesus:
 1. Many refuse to come to Him even after all he's done to show Himself trustworthy and reliable.
 2. **After all He's done, what more could Jesus do....**

I. To Show His Love?

- A. Jesus' entire life shows that He had your best interests in mind.
 1. **Phil 2:4-7**
 2. Hard to fathom a limitless God taking on the physical limitations of His creation but it was necessary
 - a. **Heb 2:17-18; 4:15**
 - b. Jesus *identifies, empathizes* with you because He lived a human life.
- B. He took on a human body, lived a completely God-pleasing life in it, so He could offer it in death.
 1. **Phil 2:8**
 - a. **John 15:13** calls it the greatest act of love that one could exhibit.
 2. It was not a quick and painless death.
 - a. He was painfully bound, mercilessly scourged, horribly humiliated, and crucified with criminals.
 - b. Throughout all this, He could have ended it simply by calling upon His Father.
 3. Further, He didn't do it while people were fawning all over Him! He did it "while we were "enemies!"
 - a. **Rom 5:6-10**
- C. Truly, how much more could Jesus possible do to show His love for you?

II. To Improve Your Life?

- A. Self-help books are a dime a dozen. Bookstore shelves are lined with books by people falling over themselves trying to tell you what makes for a satisfying life.
 1. For some, it's money, for others it's positive mental attitude, for still others it's filling time with interesting, creative hobbies.
 2. There's a place for all these in life, but even when these things abound, some feel unfulfilled and dissatisfied. They feel *robbed!*
 - a. *"The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."* **John 10:10**
 3. So, what makes for an abundant, fulfilling life?
- B. Through His own words and words He gave His apostles, Jesus tells you how to have the proper attitude toward:

1. Life - **Matt 5:3-12**
 2. Money - **Matt 6:19-21; Luke 12:15**
 3. Relationships - **Matt 5:21-26**
 - a. Marriage - **Eph 5:22-33**
 - b. Children - **Eph 6:1-4**
 4. Work - **Eph 6:5-9**
- C. Jesus' teachings are the ultimate self-help book!
1. He shows us that life is more than selfish pleasures; it's about others and interacting with the world around you in a positive God-centered way.
 - a. "The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it." Richard Evans, *Bits & Pieces*, March 4, 1993
 - b. Jesus spells it all out!
 2. What more could He do to show you how to improve your life?

III. To Save Your Soul?

- A. This is sticky territory. While many will acknowledge Jesus' love, and even admit that following His teaching will make for a more fulfilling life, the vast majority refuse to accept the greatest gift He offers.
1. "To me it is especially appalling that a man should perish through willfully rejecting the Divine salvation. A drowning man throwing away the life-belt, a poisoned man pouring the antidote upon the floor, a wounded man tearing open his wounds--any of these is a sad sight. But what shall we say of a soul refusing its Savior and choosing its own destruction?" C. H. Spurgeon
- B. Consider that there isn't anything YOU can do to deserve salvation.
1. **Rom 3:9-18; 6:23**
 2. A just God requires recompense for offenses; we can offer none on our own.
- C. The life of Jesus described before and the torturous death He died was for atonement for sin YOU could not provide.
1. **Rom 5:10-11; Heb 7:25; Rom 8:31-33**
 2. What more could Deity possibly do to provide salvation for you?

Conc: *The answer to all these questions: Nothing!*

- A. There is nothing more that Jesus could do to show His

love, improve your life, and save your soul than what He's already done.

- B. A better question might be:
1. What more can YOU do for Jesus?
- C. **INV**

A miner once said to a preacher, "I'd like to be a Christian, but I just can't receive what you said tonight." "Why not?" asked the preacher. "Well, I'd give anything to believe that God would forgive my sins, but I can't believe He'll forgive me if I just turn to Him. It's too cheap. There must be something more." The preacher looked at him and said, "Have you been working today?" Surprised, the man replied, "Yes, I was down in the pit as usual. Why?" "How did you get out of the pit?" "The way I usually do. I got into the cage and was pulled to the top." "How much did you pay to come out of the pit?" The miner looked at the preacher in astonishment. "Pay? Of course, I didn't pay anything." "Well," said the preacher, "weren't you afraid to trust yourself to that cage? Wasn't it too cheap?" "Oh, no," he said; "it was cheap for me, but it cost the company a lot of money to sink that shaft."

Then the implication of what he had said struck him, and he saw that though he could have salvation without money and without price, it had cost the infinite God a great price to rescue lost men.