

# My Friend Jesus Understands Me

## Lesson 2

Three aims of this study:

1. Learn to love and appreciate Jesus more as my Friend.
2. Become more like Jesus in my friendship with others as He is a Friend to me.
3. Learn to teach and communicate to others that they also can have a friendship with Jesus.

### I. JESUS UNDERSTANDS ME BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT I AM THINKING.

But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man (John 2:24, 25).

And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen" (Acts 1:24).

### II. THE LORD KNOWS ME INSIDE OUT. Psalm 139:1-12

### III. HOW CAN I BE LIKE JESUS IN UNDERSTANDING SINCE I CAN'T READ ANOTHER'S MIND?

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:11).

- A. How do you feel when someone tries to read your mind?
- B. How accurate are you in reading another's mind?

IV. HOW CAN I HELP OTHERS BE LIKE JESUS IN UNDERSTANDING WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ME?

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Matthew 7:7, 8).

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:14).

V. I NEED TO LEARN TO LISTEN.

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (James 1:19).

- A. Because many people have answers to their own problems; but they need the assistance of friends who can help them draw them out.

Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water,  
But a man of understanding will draw it out (Proverbs 20:5).

- B. This means that I need to be slow to talk.

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (James 1:19).

1. I cannot talk and listen at the same time.
2. I may speak before I understand, be embarrassed, and be ineffective.

He who answers a matter before he hears *it*,  
It *is* folly and shame to him (Proverbs 18:13).

C. Some advice from Jesus.

1. Pay attention to what you hear.

Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given" (Mark 4:24).

2. Consider carefully how you hear.

"Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him *more* will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him" (Luke 8:18).

3. Am I trying to learn the truth or am I trying to get my way?

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

4. Have I listened to more than one side of a disagreement?

The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right,  
Until his neighbor comes and examines him (Proverbs 18:17).

D. Am I listening to answer or understand?

1. How important is motive in our actions and in the actions of others?

Keep your heart with all diligence,  
For out of it *spring* the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23).

2. Am I irritated at the person to whom I am talking and what they are doing or not doing because it reminds me of something I am doing or not doing?  
Luke 6:39-45

3. Do you think that many people sin because they want to sin and be unhappy or because they haven't thought through the consequences of their actions?

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

"Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers" (Acts 3:17).

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:7,8).

4. How could it be possible for someone to be living outside of God's will, even for a long time, and not realize it?

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).

5. If I can learn to be a friend to others as Jesus is a friend to me in understanding, what are the opportunities for me to help:
  - a. Others who are my friends? 2 Samuel 12:1-13
    - (1) How long had it been since David had committed the sins of adultery and murder?

And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD (2 Samuel 11:27).

- (2) If it were possible for David, who was a man after God's own heart, to commit the sins of adultery and murder and not realize the impact of his disobedience for that long, could it be possible for that to happen to people today?
- (3) How could listening to understand rather than listening to answer be both more helpful and easier?

b. Myself?

- (1) If I learn something about myself while trying to understand others, what are some possible reactions I might have?
- (2) How could this be an opportunity for my growth?

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,  
And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom (Psalm 51:6).

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me, and know my anxieties;  
And see if *there is any* wicked way in me,  
And lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23, 24).

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted (Galatians 6:1).

- (3) How do I grow, change?

“For the hearts of this people have grown dull.  
Their ears are hard of hearing,  
And their eyes they have closed,  
Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears,  
Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn,  
So that I should heal them” (Matthew 13:15).

The factory engine wouldn't start  
And so they took the thing apart  
To search for flaws.  
They took it down from top to base,  
They looked at flange and gear and case,  
To find the cause.  
"Something's broken," they declared,  
"And what it is must be repaired."

Nearby a drowsy workman stood,  
And someone muttered: "He's no good;  
Just let him go."  
They did not take that man apart,  
Or think to search his mind and heart,  
The cause to know.  
Nobody thought to ask him why  
There was no luster in his eye.

But had they looked into the gloom  
Of what he called a sitting room,  
Or searched his life  
They would have found a woman frail,  
Tubercular and drawn and pale,  
Who was his wife.  
And then they might have understood  
Why he seemed to be no good.

When engines in a factory stop  
We search the things from base to top;  
But when a man breaks  
We seldom pause,  
To search his life to find the cause.  
Yet we might mend him could we find  
The thing that's preying on his mind.

- Anonymous