

REDEEMER & FRIEND

February 8, 2026

THE ONE WHERE JESUS INVITES THE TRAITOR

“God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Romans 5:8 (NLT)

“Our message is that God was making all human beings his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends.”

2 Corinthians 5:19 (GNT)

“I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn’t choose me. I chose you.”

John 15:15-16 (NLT)

“I am the LORD, and I do not change.”

Malachi 3:6 (NLT)

Matthew's Redeemer and Friend

1. The Redeemer reclaims a _____, not just a _____.

Luke 5:27-28 (TLB) – “Later on as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector - with the usual reputation for cheating—sitting at a tax collection booth. The man's name was Levi. Jesus said to him, “Come and be one of my disciples!” So Levi left everything, sprang up, and went with him.”

Romans 5:8 (NLT) – “But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

NOTES:

2. The Friend

while _____ unfolds.

Luke 5:29 (TLB) – “Levi then held a reception in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's fellow tax collectors and other guests were there.”

Hebrews 4:15-16 (CEV) – "Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin! So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help."

Luke 5:30-32 (TLB) – “The Pharisees and teachers of the Law complained bitterly to Jesus’ disciples about his eating with such notorious sinners. Jesus answered them, “It is the sick who need a doctor, not those in good health. My purpose is to invite sinners to turn from their sins, not to spend my time with those who think themselves already good enough.””

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8 (NLT)

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