

## **Jesus Is My Facebook Friend**

**By Kent Heaton**

“And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.’ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, ‘Greetings, Rabbi!’ and kissed Him. But Jesus said to him, ‘Friend, why have you come?’ Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him” (Matt. 26:47-50).

Facebook has changed the face of the world. History will declare Facebook as one of the major influences of the modern culture as radio and television did a century ago. According to recent numbers, there are 1.6 billion users. The name has become synonymous as a means of communication and information becoming the electronic newspaper of the day. The basis of Facebook is the use of ‘friends.’ Each individual is a ‘friend’ and to connect with other people on Facebook there is a processing of ‘befriending’ them. Afterwards, the two individuals will be able to share information about their lives on the electronic pages of each person’s site including all other ‘friends’ who are part of the Facebook community.

Presently I have 564 ‘friends’ on my Facebook account. That is an embarrassing low number according to many folk on Facebook. It is also something of a misnomer. Of the 564 ‘friends’ I am not sure I know most of them. A request comes in to ‘friend’ someone and I accept (sometimes reject) and now we are ... ‘friends’? In the long ago, the word “friend” meant someone of a close personal relationship that shared deeper knowledge with than others. I know many people but I would not consider them “friends” in the meaning of knowing a lot about them. There are many people that I know who they are and we may speak on occasion but to tell someone anything about this person would be impossible because our paths do not cross with any regularity that would benefit such knowledge. Attending school with a lot of people my age did not make them all my ‘friends’ because that was reserved for a close circle of people where we shared deeper relationships with. That is the natural order of our relationships. Facebook has changed the word “friend” to be anyone who clicks a button no matter whether there is a personal relationship or not.

Jesus has more ‘friends’ than anyone on the planet. There are many people who have Jesus as their Facebook friend who have no idea who He is, what He is or anything about His life. To them, Jesus Christ is just a click of a button to say He is their friend and that is all. There are many other people in the circle of Facebook life that are more important than Jesus is. They say they are ‘religious’ but never strive to learn who the Son of God is. The Lord becomes just a pacifier in time of need. He is not the top of the list but He is on the list. To most people He is someone who is a friend but nothing personal.

It is remarkable that Jesus called Judas a friend. For the past few years, the apostle of Christ had shared many things with the Lord. Judas preached the good news, performed miracles, encouraged and exhorted other disciples, witnessed the miracles of Jesus and listened to the teachings of the master Teacher. However, in the garden Judas was not a companion any longer because he was betraying His Lord. There are a lot of folks who treat Jesus the same way today. Feigning a relationship with the Lord, they are nothing more than a Facebook friend that is part of a number - instead of a personal Lord who has changed their life.

A friend is someone who changes another’s life. I may have to sit down one day and see how many of the 564 friends I have that I really know and then out of that number see how many people I know anything about. Friends are important but only when they are true friends that help change my life. Jesus needs to be my friend only in the sense that He becomes my Lord, my Savior and my King. I need to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to know everything about Him. He needs to change my life on every level. His character should be

embedded in every part of my heart. If Jesus is just a Facebook friend - you need to get off Facebook and get into the Book. Amen?

“The influence of His life, His words, and His death, have, from the first, been like leaven cast into the mass of humanity.” (Cunningham Geikie, *The Life and Words of Christ*, 1877)

### **Beautiful Before Death**

“Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.' Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates” (Prov. 31:28-31).

It was mid-October, and the trees along the Blue Ridge Parkway were ablaze with color. At an overlook, we stood next to a woman who was showing the view to her elderly mother. “Isn't it wonderful of God to take something just before it dies and make it so beautiful?” the daughter commented as she gazed at some falling leaves. “Wouldn't it be nice if he did that with people?” the mother mused. The younger woman looked at the stooped, white-haired figure beside her. “Sometimes He does,” she answered so softly that she thought no one heard. (From B.G. White in *Illustrations Unlimited*, p. 379)

### **Baptize the Whole City**

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2Cor. 5:17). “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

The story is told of a machinist at Ford Motor Company in Detroit who was taught the gospel and was baptized. He became a devout follower of Christ and desired to right his many wrongs. He had been stealing parts and tools from the Ford Company for many years. Shortly after his conversion, he took all of the stolen parts and tools back to his foreman. He explained his situation and recent conversion and asked for forgiveness. This response by an employee was without precedent. Mr. Ford, who was visiting a European plant, was cabled concerning all the details of this matter with a request for his response. Mr. Ford immediately returned a cable with his decision: “Dam up the Detroit River, and baptize the entire city!”

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- If you neglect another day, you have a day more to repent of, and a day less to repent in.
- Pitch the Good Book to your child while he is young, and they won't throw the book at him when he is older.
- Idol worship is often done during idle time.
- When death knocks, you will come as you are.
- Haste is usually to save minutes, after hours have been wasted.
- If you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you might find it quite intolerable; think of it as a place of training and correction and it's not so bad.
- It takes both hands to lay hold of eternal life; you will have to let everything else go.
- A thankful heart speaks more eloquently to God than the most persuasive tongue.
- There is no book in the Bible called Resolutions of the Disciples; however, I have often read the Acts of the Apostles.
- Never stand around begging for that which you have the power to earn.