



A light to my path. Psalm 119:105

Benefits of a Friendship with Jesus!

At the scourging post, Jesus accepted the cruel lashes onto His body from the Roman guards, enduring them for our illnesses, miseries, and physical weaknesses. Jesus took our mental weakness and all forms of human brokenness by wearing the crown of thorns. He purged our sins on the cross (Isaiah 53:4-6, John 19:17-18, NKJV). His pain at the crucifixion and His death, burial, and resurrection gave us the privilege of taking all our troubles, afflictions, trials and temptations to God in prayer (Hebrew 4:16, John 16:33, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:6-7, Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 6:32-33, 11:28). In our prayers, Jesus listens to and takes our sorrows (1 Peter 5:7, Psalm 55:22). Then He gives us His peace (John 14:27). Jesus is a faithful friend who provides our wants and needs (John 15:15, Proverbs 17:17, Psalm 23:1, Philippians 4:19). He did all of this because He loves us (John 15:12-13, Ephesians 3:18-19). On the eve of Joseph Scriven's marriage, his fiancée drowned. Then he learned of his mother's sickness and wrote the poem "Jesus Our Friend" out of his indescribable grief for his fiancée to comfort his mother. As John lay dying, a neighbor found the poem and asked him if he had written it. John replied, "The Lord and I did it together." Now we sing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."¹ John would have lost

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heart had he not believed he would see the goodness of the Lord in his life (Psalm 27:13-14). Do not lose heart! Stay in faith! Shalom!!

1. Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886, STEM Publishing

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