

Day 38 Thursday
Sisters, Brothers, Friends and Servants

Jesus: Our Brother

Jesus is Savior, Son, Shepherd, Lord—but what does it mean when we call Him our brother? Scripture often describes our relationship with God as bride and groom, sheep and shepherd, clay and potter, children and father. The New Testament tells us that when we're adopted into God's family, thanks to Jesus' sacrificial work on our behalf, He becomes the spiritual big brother to all of us. What does it mean to call Jesus our brother? And what kind of brother is He?

- Jesus is welcoming (Romans 5:8)
- Jesus does everything first and sets an example for us to follow (1 Peter 2:21)
- Jesus teaches us (John 13:13)
- Jesus offers guidance and support (John 15:5)
- Jesus will share His inheritance (John 14:1-3)
- Jesus paid the legal fees (1 John 2:1-2)
- Jesus sticks up for us (Hebrews 7:25)

Jesus: Our Friend

To be called Jesus's servant is an immeasurable privilege. Yet Jesus confers a greater honor. He brings us even closer. He calls us friends. Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves, and he loves us more deeply than anyone else ever could. We are closer to his heart than anyone has ever been to ours.

We cultivate our friendship with Jesus through communion. Relationships thrive on conversation. As we read, receive, and remember God's word, we hear him address us as friends. And then we pray — we thank him, we confess our sins to him, and we share our burdens with him. Do this throughout the day, not just as servants, but relating as friends.

Finally, let's prove our friendship through obedience. Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I command you," let us respond to Him with trust and faith. Jesus chose us as friends, he died for us as friends, he caused us to trust him as our friend. What a friend we have in Jesus, moment by moment, now and forever — in Jesus.

A Friend That Endures
Proverbs 17:17

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother or a sister is born for adversity.”

The Patience of a Friend
Colossians 3:13

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

The Value of a Friend
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.

10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.

The Prayers of a Friend
Job 42:10

“And the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.”

Jesus Calls Us His Friends

John 15:15

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

John 15:13

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:14

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Jesus Calls Us His Brothers and Sisters

Mark 3:34-35

Then Jesus looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

Romans 8:29

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

Hebrews 2:11

“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”

**“Of those whom You gave Me
I have lost none”**

John 18:8-9 NKJV

8 Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,”

9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.”

Matthew 26:55-56

55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.

56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Arrested Before the High Priest

John 18:12-14

12 Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

13 And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.

14 Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

Peter Denies Jesus

John 18:15-18

15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.

16 But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in.

17 Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also one of this Man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.”

18 Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

Jesus Questioned by the High Priest

John 18:19-24

19 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.

20 Jesus answered him, “I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.

21 Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said.”

22 And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, “Do You answer the high priest like that?”

23 Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?”

24 Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter Denies Twice More
John 18:25-30

25 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, “You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not!”

26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?”

27 Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.

In Pilate's Court

John 18:28-18

28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.

29 Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

30 They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

31 Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law."

Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,"

32 that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

Pilates 2nd Round of Interrogation

John 18:33-38

33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

34 Jesus answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?”

35 Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?”

36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.

Taking the Place of Barabbas

John 18:39-40

39 “But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

40 Then they all cried again, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

Religious and Political Leaders Convene Over the Fate of Jesus

At this time, Caiaphas was the man currently recognized by the Roman government as Israel's high priest. John skims over the details of Jesus' sham trials with the Sanhedrin (Mark 14:55–65), which is why Jesus was secretly arrested and brought to Caiaphas' home (John 18:12–14).

Long before Jesus was taken into custody, these religious leaders had already decided to have Him killed (John 11:49–53). As the high priest, Caiaphas has some authority from Rome to punish criminals and those who violate Jewish law.

That authority does not include the death penalty, however, and Jesus' enemies want to ensure He's executed. That means taking Him to the Roman governor, Pilate, and attempting to paint Jesus as a seditionist. They will lean heavily on mob tactics and the threat of civil unrest to coerce him into executing an innocent person (John 19:12–15).

The scribes and Pharisees avoid Pilate's residence due to their interpretation of Old Testament law. Their belief was that close contact with Gentiles, including entering their homes, would make a person ceremonially unclean. Since this is immediately before Passover, they don't want to make that mistake.

Jesus is too well-liked to be assassinated, so His enemies will attempt to paint Him as a rebel against Rome. In a private interview with Pilate, Jesus claims His role as King, but also notes that His purpose is not yet to rule an earthly kingdom. Pilate attempts to appease the crowd, trying to spare a clearly innocent man, but a mob has formed to demand Jesus' death.

John continues his habit of skipping details offered in other Gospels. He does not repeat the account of Jesus before the Sanhedrin (Mark 14:55–65), nor the part of Pilate's investigation where Jesus is sent briefly to Herod (Luke 23:6–12).