Sermon Title: Jesus: **A Friend Like No Other**

Biblical Focus:  **John 15: 13**

Scripture Lesson:  **John 15: 14-17**

**Sunday**

Hymn of Praise:  **#526 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

Prayer Hymn:  **#451 Be Thou My Vision, Oh Lord Of My Heart (Verse 2)**

Special Music:  **You Are Everything (I will do this at all three services)** Place this right before the Sermon

**Saturday**

#526  **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

#98  **To God Be the Glory**

“**Friend of God**”

Laurie, if you they are at the quality that you think is acceptable, select praise songs focused around our love for God or His love for us. I see at least four listed in your selections.
Jesus: A Friend Like No Other

Introduction: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” another of our very popular hymns that was written by the most unlikely of characters. Allow me to share the story: (Attachment)

But what does this mean to us, Jesus is our friend? He is our Lord and Savior, our Redeemer and Sustainer. But our friend seems a little informal, doesn’t it? Let’s look at what friendship means to us from a more earthly perspective and see how Jesus stacks up.

How many of you have a best friend? For some of you they’re a person you’ve known since childhood. For some a person you’ve come to know more recently. For some of you it may be your spouse.

I. According to the dictionary a friend is: a person attached to another by feelings of affection or personal regard. So what about Jesus, does He fit the bill? Let’s see what scripture says (You will note that I am using scripture addressing both God and Jesus. I come from the perspective that Jesus is God who came to earth and as part of the Trinity are one in the same):

   a. John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God
did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”

b. Roman’s 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

c. Luke 5: 32 “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

II. Looking at these verses, Jesus is quite the friend. I don’t know about you, but when I look for friends, I look first for people with things in common, work, school, hobbies -- some of my best friends are people in this church, people I sing with -- But what about Jesus, He pick those who had nothing in common with Him. He picked His enemies! Those who are sinners and do not believe in Christ are for all practical purpose, enemies of God. Yet, God chose through His obedient Son Jesus to love and redeem us:

Jesus is a Friend Like No Other

III. Another dictionary definition of friend is a person who gives assistance. We can clearly see this in the following verses:

a. Isaiah 42: “I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make
the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

b. Matthew 28:20b “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

c. 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

IV. So now you are thinking that, Larry you are really stretching the definition of Jesus as our Friend when you bring in the verse from 2 Timothy about scripture. But again I do this based upon what scripture tells us: John 1:1-2 says…”In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning….” Jesus is the Word, and through that Word He instructs us, He encourages us and He corrects us. Only the best of friends will summon up the courage to correct us and hold us accountable. In addition to His instruction book, how many of you have been through a trial in life that was filled with impossible stress, impossible tasks or impossible sadness that even now you can see the hand of Jesus leading you or even carrying you through, or the heart of Jesus giving unexplainable peace? Jesus is a friend like no other.
V. **Conclusion:** To put it more simply, If Jesus had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it; If Jesus had a wallet, your picture would be in it; and If Jesus had a cell phone your number would be on His speed dial. With a friend like that, who cares about your enemies!!! So what do you do with that knowledge? Jesus is such a compelling and dedicated friend, He demands a response from each of us. I pray that each of you respond, in your heart and mind by accepting Jesus’ friendship and His Lordship.