

Friend of Sinners

Part 8: Faithful Wounds

November 9 & 10, 2019

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Lead Teaching Pastor

The Words of Proverbs 27:6

New International Version (NIV)

Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses.

New Living Translation (NLT)

Wounds from a sincere friend
are better than many kisses from
an enemy.

English Standard Version (ESV)

Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Why do we avoid truth telling?

Because we are cowards
and there is a cost.

The Truth-telling of Jesus

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." – Luke 10:38-42

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are. – Matthew 23:15

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." – Matthew 16:23

When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." – Luke 11:37-39

The voice of accusation:

You are outside of God's grace
You can't handle the truth about you

The voice of shame:

You're right

The voice of truth:

I am unapologetically exclusive

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." – Matthew 7:13-14

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." – Matthew 7:21

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – John 14:6

Are you open to a faithful wound from Jesus?

The promise of Jesus:

Faithful wounds are founded and grounded in love.

Next Steps

The Prayer Team and the Belonging Team will be available today after services. If you need prayer, meet a member of the prayer team in front of the stage. If you've just decided to follow Jesus or want to make that decision, come meet one of the Belonging Team members under the left video screen.

Small Group Questions

- 1) When do you start decorating for Christmas?
- 2) Have you ever been faithfully wounded by a friend? What happened?
- 3) Are you a truth teller? Why or why not?
- 4) Read the truth-telling passages of Jesus. What's your response when you realize he is saying this to you as well?
- 5) What area of your life is Jesus speaking truth into right now? What will you do with his call to be the exclusive king of your life?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?