



You've Got a Friend in Him – Palm Sunday 2026 Week 5

Jesus is the faithful friend who rides in knowing the **cost** — and stays all the way to the **cross**.

1. The Crowd and the Cost

Luke 19:35–38 (NLT) "They brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As He went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When He came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God... 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Zechariah 9:9 (NLT) "See, your king comes to you... righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey."

Palm Sunday reminds us that real friendship shows up when it's **costly**.

2. The Friend Who Chooses the Cross

John 15:13 (NLT) "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Jesus chose obedience, sacrifice, and **you**, even when He could have stopped.

3. The Friend Who Stays When Others Scatter

Even when Peter denied Him, Judas betrayed Him, and the disciples ran... Jesus stayed.

True friendship is: Faithful when **misunderstood**, Present when **abandoned**, Loving when **rejected**.

4. Receive His Friendship You don't earn Jesus' love. You **receive** it.

Romans 5:8 (NLT) "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

5. Reflect His Friendship

Because He loved us first, we can: Stay when it's **uncomfortable** Love when it's **inconvenient** Forgive when it's **undeserved**

The same Jesus who rode in on a donkey, walked toward the cross, and stayed when everyone else walked away... is holy, set apart, and worthy of all worship.

Let's lift up the name of Jesus – the Friend who became our Savior, the Savior who is Holy... forever.

Talk It Over Points

Costly Friendship: Why is it easier to have friends when life is easy? How can you show up for someone even when it's inconvenient or uncomfortable?

Faithful Friend: Jesus stayed when everyone else walked away. Who in your life needs you to be a faithful friend this week?

Receiving and Reflecting: How does understanding Jesus' friendship change the way you show love, forgiveness, and patience to others?

Action Points

Receive Jesus' Friendship: Take time this week to reflect and thank Jesus for loving you even when it cost Him everything.

Be a Faithful Friend: Identify one person in your life who could use your presence or support this week and reach out to them.

Reflect His Love: Look for one way to show love, forgiveness, or grace to someone in a situation that's inconvenient or uncomfortable.

Easter Invite

This Easter, we'd love for you to celebrate with us!

Join us at Innovation Church for one of our three services: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, or 11:30 AM.

Come see the story of Jesus' friendship, sacrifice, and victory come alive—and bring a friend or family member with you!