Topic: Jesus, the Friend of Sinners

Scripture text: John 8:1-11

31 July 2016: Preached by Elder John Leong

1. The Greatest Friend that ever lived on earth is Jesus, He is closer than any brother or sister. He is more intimate than any relationship. Jesus declared that He came to this world for sinners, for the down and out, the lonely, the friendless, the broken-hearted, the bruised and captives (Luke 4:18-19).Jesus indeed is the Friend of Sinners.

2. Jesus came to those who are weary and heavy-laded. The biggest burden is the burden of sin that man carries. Jesus came to people who could not carry anymore the load of sin. Sadly there are people like the Scribes and Pharisees who reject the friendship of Jesus.

3. John 8:1-11 highlight this truth. The Scribes and Pharisees caught a woman in adultery and brought her to Jesus. They wanted to trap Jesus to discredit Him publicly. They quoted God's law in Lev 20:10 that the punishment of the sin of adultery is death.

4. If Jesus would to say not to stone this woman to death, then Jesus will be accused of breaking the laws of God. If Jesus would to say to stone this woman to death, then Jesus would be accused of not being a Friend to sinners to show compassion and forgiveness. This is a spiritual issue that affects all mankind: How to harmonise the justice of God and the mercy of God?

5. The divine answer given by Jesus is "let him that is without sin first cast a stone at her". Of course, no one did and they all left. Jesus wanted to show that only God is the Judge of man. Then Jesus, who is God Himself, said "neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more". Jesus knew what He was speaking. A sin has been committed and the punishment of that sin is death. The woman did not die for her sin because Jesus would go the cross to die for her sin of adultery. The woman received forgiveness of her sins. Let us be grateful for what Jesus has done for us on the cross to save us from our sins and truly receive Him in our heart as our Lord and Saviour.