

- Whatever the problem, Jesus is the Answer. What are your problems?
- Broke, poor, uneducated, fat/skinny, ignorant, unemployed, no girlfriend/boyfriend, no friends/bad friends, bad parents, victim, hated, loved for the wrong thing, loved in the wrong way, not loved at all, school sucks, not athletic enough, not strong enough, not smart enough, not perfect enough.
- Whatever the problem is, Jesus is the answer.
- Life is not about changing our reality, but rather improving our response to it ... and this can only be done w/Jesus.
- We cannot change our circumstances of life that make up our reality; we cannot control other people or the world – our reality *is*, and the only question remains, “now how am I going to respond to it?”
- The difference b/w a happy person and a miserable person is how they choose to respond to trial, to difficulty, to suffering.
- If we “tough it out” on our own, we are sunk; but w/Jesus, everything changes: our ways of understanding, wisdom, seeing situations from perspectives that are surmountable instead of defeating.
- We must go to Jesus if we expect a happy life.
- Why Jesus? Because He is God and He created you for Himself, and w/o Him, you don't know anything about yourself, or what to do w/yourself.
- When you have a best friend you share everything; this is the kind of relationship we want to develop w/ Jesus (a loving friendship).
- What happens when you meet someone and you have a great conversation w/them and they become your friend, but you never speak to them again? You no longer are really friends are you?
- Same thing happens w/Jesus: At baptism you are introduced to Jesus, at confirmation you actualize all your graces for your life's vocation and then we stop talking to Him (we stopped being friends w/the only one who loves us unconditionally and makes us feel good about ourselves).
- The difference in anyone you know and your best friend is – what? – continued conversation (sharing of your thoughts, feelings, and desires).
- So conversation makes good friends; the more you talk w/ anyone, the more you are going to become friends, and the more you are going to be happy (because happiness on earth is having good, holy healthy relationships with many people).
- That's happiness because God made us to share our lives w/others.
- So then, what about Jesus? Do you want to know Jesus like you know a best friend? (what makes Him laugh, cry, sad, rejoice?)

- Of course you do, because when you have a friendship w/Jesus all your other relationships improve and everything in life gets better because you are taught by Jesus how to be in relationships the right way & respond to life's sufferings (simply by being in conversational relationship w/Him).
- Does God talk to us? He talks to us all the time; our problem is we do not go to Him to listen to what He has to say to us.
- 10 minutes each day in church or your quiet place of being alone and still w/the Lord will change your life for the better! (do you believe me?).
- Let me tell you something, ever since I was 8 yrs old, I was the most angry and hateful person you would have ever met in your life.
- Well, to make a long story short, I ended up being sure of God's call for me to enter seminary, and so I went ... and naturally they require us to pray – talk w/Jesus about our thoughts, feelings and desires everyday, and in addition, we had weekend retreats twice per year and so I had tons of time to tell Jesus about how all my problems were His fault.
- And I told Him. Do you know what I was doing? I was actually building a friendship w/Jesus for the first time in my life.
- After I was done ranting, He would say very little back to me, that would have the most profound meaning for my situations and it would change everything ... most particularly how I would respond to my sufferings.
- By being honest with Jesus – and waiting in silence for His response – He was teaching me about my purpose, my direction, and my life.
- Now I didn't know I was changing at the time, but I did know that every time I spent time with Jesus I felt better about my reality & I also knew how to respond to it better.
- We make a friend of Jesus the same way we make friends w/ anyone: just start talking to Him, and then listen to what He has to say.
- When you develop your friendship w/Jesus you will come to find out how much you are loved by Him and how that love will fill your heart and life so much that you will learn how to give it to those around you and you will become a better person living a happier life (& it just keeps getting better the more you work on that friendship w/Jesus).
- All you have to do is carve out at least 10 minutes each day w/Jesus, and He'll teach you how to live right.
- Your time here today, is changing you (maybe you realize it, maybe you don't, but I promise you, you will be different after today).
- No one can be in the presence of the Lord and not be changed.
- So whatever the problem, Jesus is the answer. Go to Jesus as often as you want to, & have that conversational communication w/Him.

- *Acknowledge* your thoughts, your feelings, your desires; *Relate* them to the Lord (tell Him your thoughts, feelings and desires); and then wait to *Receive* what this “old” friend has to say to you.