

Jesus did many miracles and healed many people.

- Some were found in the **temple**
- Sitting by the **side of the road**
- Some **family members** asked Christ to come heal their loved ones

Paralytic was brought to Him **by four friends**

They had to think **creatively** of a way to get him to Christ, since the house was too crowded

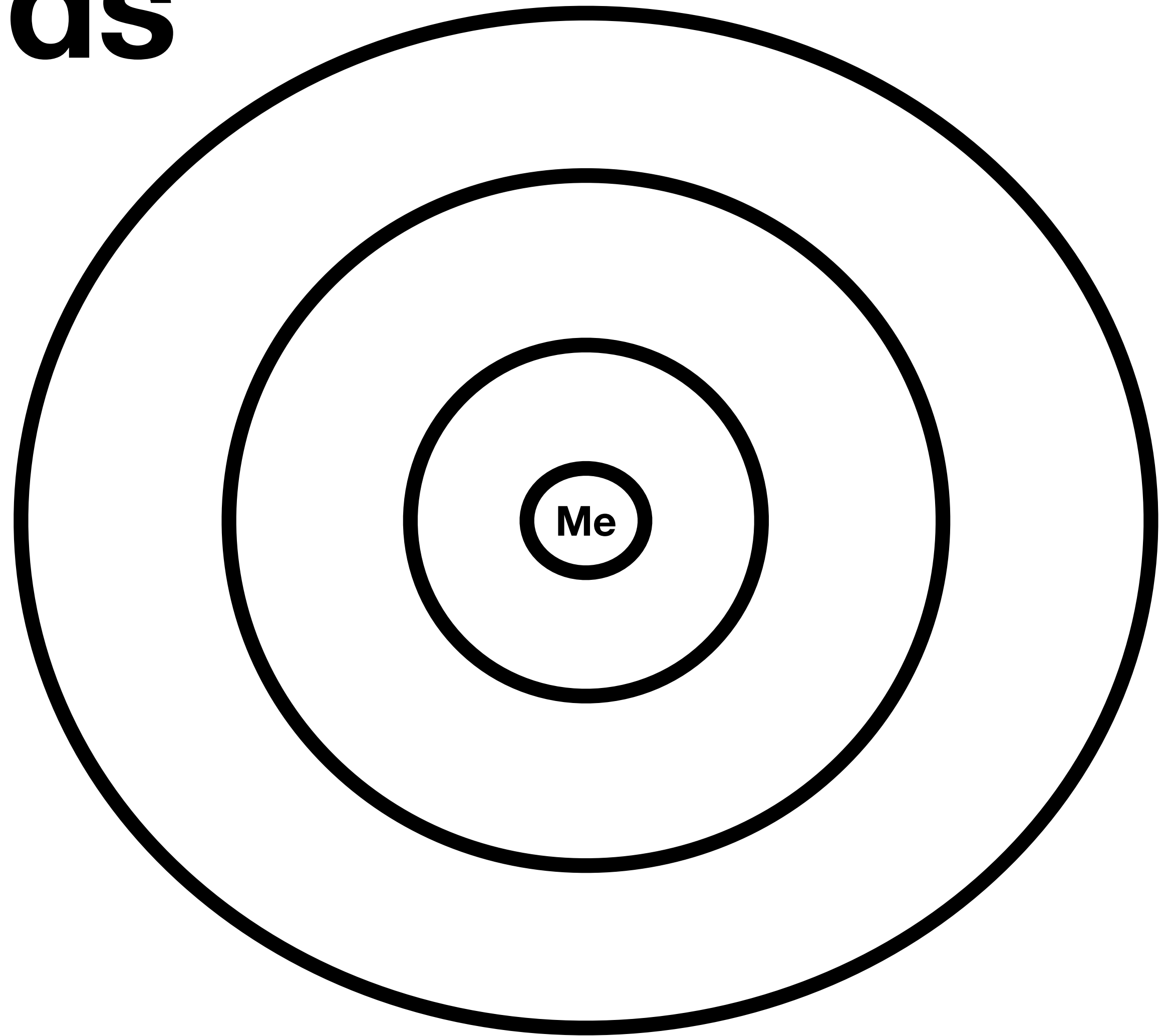
They provide tangible and intangible
assistance and support

When is the last time you:

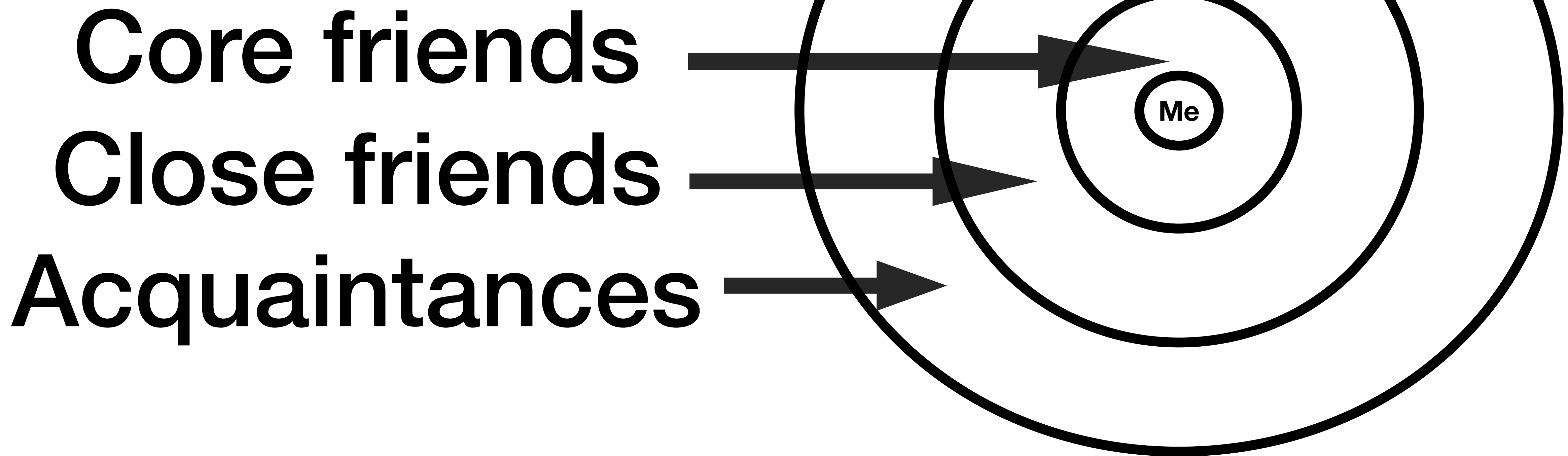
- **Prayed with a friend?**
- **Lent a sympathetic ear?**
- **Provide voice of reassurance?**
- **Or voiced gratitude for a friendship?**
- **Totally self-less to help a friend?**

Proverbs 12:26 The righteous **should**
choose his friends carefully,
For the way of the **wicked leads them**
astray.

Circle of friends



Circle of friends



Wrong friends

Pull you away from God

Quarrelsome

Gossiper

Flatter

Uncontrolled anger

Unethical

A Christian that sin sexually

Right friends

Draw you closer to God

Peaceful

Keeps secrets

Encouraging

Truthful

Ethical / Honest

Believes in chastity

Wrong friends

Quarrelsome / trouble maker

Proverbs 20:3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.

Wrong friends

Uncontrolled anger/temper:

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with
an **angry man**, And with a **furious man**
do not go,

25 **Lest you learn his ways** And set a
snare for your soul.

Wrong friends

Gossiper & Flatter

Proverbs 20:19 He who goes about as a **talebearer reveals secrets;**
Therefore do not associate with one who **flatters** with his lips.

Wrong friends

Unethical gain, steal, cheat etc...

Proverbs 1:13 We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with **spoil**;

15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path;

Wrong friends

Believer doesn't live chaste

1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote to you in my epistle **not to keep company with sexually immoral people.**

10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone **named a brother**, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—**not even to eat with such a person.**

Right friends

Draw you closer to God

St. John Chrysostom:

“For not eating and drinking makes friendship: such friendship even robbers have and murderers. But if we are friends, if we truly care for one another, let us in these respects **help one another**. This leads us to a profitable friendship: let us **hinder** those things which lead to hell.”

Right friends

Encourage & support you spiritually

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore **comfort**
each other and **edify** one another

Right friends

Listen

James 1:19 let every man be **swift to hear**, slow to speak, **slow to wrath**

Right friends

Empathize

St. Maximos the Confessor ~ A true friend is one who in times of trial calmly and imperturbably **suffers with his neighbor** the ensuing afflictions, privations and disasters **as if they were his own.**

Right friends

Keeps a secret

Proverb 11:13 A talebearer reveals secrets,
But he who is of a **faithful spirit**
conceals a matter.

Right friends

Brings the best out of you

Proverbs 11:27 He who earnestly **seeks**
good finds favor,
But trouble will come to him who seeks
evil.

Right friend = Christ like

What kind of friend do you think Jesus was?

- He forgave everyone
- He was always there for people
- He challenged people to be the best they could be
- He shared His life with people
- He was always honest