

had eighty-three individual encounters with people, as documented in the chart below (categorized by the type of people and topic of conversation).

Jesus' Interactions with People

Type of People	Topic of Conversation	Citations
Friends	Trust	Matt. 16:5–12; Luke 24:13–35; John 20:19–22
	Money	Luke 12:13–14, 32–34
	Following	Matt. 26:33–40, 73–75; 28:18–20; Luke 5:4–10; 10:1–2, 17–21; 11:1–13; John 6:26–69; 21:6–24
	Kingdom	Mark 9:35–37; 11:12–25; Luke 7:20–28
	Compassion	Mark 2:13–17; 6:34–44; John 11:17–27
	Cross	Matt. 16:21–25; 26:21–25; Mark 10:35–45; John 13:1–5
	Jesus' Identity	Matt. 3:13–17; 14:25–31; 16:13–18; 26:26–29; Mark 4:37–41; Luke 7:20–28; 9:28–35; 24:13–35; John 1:35–51; 11:17–27; 20:19–22
Seekers	Trust	Matt. 15:22–28; John 4:46–52
	Money	Matt. 19:16–23
	Following	Matt. 19:16–23; John 6:29–69
	Kingdom	John 3:1–6
	Jesus' Identity	Mark 11:7–11; John 19:17–19
Antagonists	Trust	John 7:2–5
	Following	Matt. 8:19–22
	Kingdom	Mark 3:21–35; Luke 5:33–39
	Sabbath/Rituals	Matt. 12:1–8; Mark 1:21–28; 3:1–6; 7:1–15; Luke 13:10–17
	Cross	Matt. 23:1–12; Luke 14:7–11
	Compassion	Matt. 19:3–9; Mark 5:1–20; Luke 4:16–30; 10:25–37

Antagonists	Jesus' Identity	Matt. 4:1–11; 22:15–46; Mark 14:55–65; Luke 2:46–49; 4:16–30; 13:31–33; 22:47–53; 23:7–12; John 2:3–8; 7:14–15, 37–39; 8:12–59; 10:10–14, 24–30; 18:28–31; 19:1–6
Outcasts	Trust	Matt. 15:22–28; Luke 7:1–10, 37–50
	Money	Mark 12:41–44
	Following	Luke 10:38–42
	Compassion	Luke 7:11–16; 15:1–32; 19:1–10; John 8:3–7
	Sabbath/Rituals	Luke 13:10–17
	Cross	John 12:1–8
	Jesus' Identity	Mark 5:22–43; John 4:10–14; 20:14–18
The Sick	Trust	Mark 2:1–12; 3:1–6; 9:17–24; 10:46–52; John 9:1–7
	Sabbath/Rituals	Luke 13:10–17; John 5:1–15
	Compassion	Luke 5:12–14; 17:12–19
	Jesus' Identity	Mark 1:30–34; 2:1–12; John 5:1–15

By looking at this chart, we can see how Jesus met people at their place of need, whether for healing, teaching, or confrontation. Whether friend or foe, he treated people with dignity, he spoke to them individually, he believed in their potential, and he called them to action and faith. Why? Because he saw people as a resource to be managed for God's glory, not his own promotion or protection. What is really surprising is that virtually all of these interactions were actually interruptions.

Virtually every interaction Jesus had outside of the Twelve was an interruption. A woman weasels through the crowd to touch him. A man bursts into the house to ask him to heal his son. A leper lunges toward him, pleading for healing. On it goes—dinner invitations, public confrontations, requests for healing, questions, and interrogations. If you think about it, most of our interactions are interruptions as well. We can view them as potential intrusions or potential investments.⁴