

Bible Study Outline

Radical

Questions:

- Which of the following people, or groups, would you describe as being radical, and why?
 - Bobby Seals (Black Panther)
 - Malcolm X
 - Hillary Clinton
 - Nelson Mandela
 - Pope Francis
 - Rush Limbaugh
 - Patrick Nolen
- What do you think it means to be a radical? How would you describe a person who is called a “radical?”

Radical - rad·i·cal | \ 'ra-di-kəl

a: very different from the usual or traditional : EXTREME

b: favoring extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, or institutions

Today’s Culture – Postmodern

Postmodern - Marked by skepticism, self-consciousness, celebration of differences, and the digitalization of culture.

Finish these statements so that they fit today’s culture.

- Do unto others, before they _____ .
- You must first learn to love _____ before you can love anyone else.
- Show your opposition no _____ .

Common Aspects of our Modern Culture

- Society worships youth, fame, and wealth
- Casual sex outside of marriage is ok, and actually encouraged
- A person’s gender is fluid and changeable, not dependent upon biology, but how the person feels
- The humanity of those we disagree with is devalued
- Truth is relative to the circumstances, there is no real, absolute truth
- The end is justified by the means
- Don’t just subdue your enemies, destroy them
- Resolving problems/differences with violence and unrest is ok and often justified
- Narcissism and pride is applauded and rewarded (social media)
- Those who are humble are considered to be weak and voiceless.
- If you are persecuted assume the role of a victim

Jesus was the Greatest Counter-culture Radical in History!

Remember: a radical is someone who is/was very different from the usual or traditional, even viewed as extreme; or, it is someone who favors extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, institutions, cultural norms, or attitudes

Examples of Jesus the Radical:

Jesus was radical when it came to who He interacted with:

Read: John 4:1-19

What was radical about Jesus even interacting with the woman?

- Samaritan
- Adulterer
- His status as Rabbi or teacher

Read: John 19:1-10

What is the problem with Jesus hanging out with Zacchaeus?

- Tax Collector
- “Sinful Man”

- **KEY:** Jesus rejected the conventional religious and cultural thinking of His time

Jesus understood that we battle with exclusion, self-righteousness and arrogance, and are quick when it comes to judging others. He knew how easily we could fall into the trap of turning “the other” , “them,” or those people — into enemies.

Jesus was radical when it came to what He taught:

Read: Matt 12:9-13

- **Question:** What was a Pharisee?
- Why would the Pharisees have a problem with Jesus healing on the Sabbath?
- Describe one radical thing Jesus points out in this passage.

Read: Matt 15:10-20

Why would Jesus make the point, “It’s not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person” to a Jewish audience?

- **KEY:** Jesus rejected the hypocrisy and the burdens placed upon the people based upon the religious teaching of the Jewish leaders

One of Jesus’ Most Radical Collection of Teachings: Matt 5:1-10 (*Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount*)

- This section of Scripture is known as the, “Beatitudes.” Why would they be called by this name?

Answer: from Latin *beatitudo*, meaning “blessedness.” Each phrase starts with, “Blessed are...”

Key Question: Are You a Radical for Christ?

- How do you become a radical for Christ?

James 1:22-23

²² But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face[b] in a mirror. (CSB)