

2-19-2025 – Jesus Said What?? (part 1) Mid-week encouragement!

Sometimes Jesus told parables . . . confusing; challenge to understand.

Other times, He was direct . . . & it was shocking. Said what?? Means what?

- Time for spiritual **growth, gain** wisdom & understanding, **grow** closer.

Luke 14 – ²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

Shocking. Jesus wants us to hate our lives? Other people? Hate family?

What about “Love your neighbor as yourself” ?? Lev. 19:18

What about “Whoever loves God must love his brother as well.” ? 1 Jn 4:21

What about “As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples” ?? John 13:34-35

What about Honor your father and mother? Ex. 20:12

- When scripture is confusing, conflicting... **look to more scripture.**

Matt. 10 - ³⁷ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

Sounds better; but – **let’s put this in context.**

Jesus calls the 12 to go out into the world; authority to heal/cleanse

- Tells them to take nothing, accept hospitality. Vs.
- Stay where welcomed, or shake the dust from your feet. 11-14
- You’ll be like a sheep among wolves. But don’t fear. Vs. 16
 - Don’t worry about what to say; the Spirit will speak thru you. 19
 - Brother will betray brother; Father will betray own child. 21
 - You will be hated as my follower. Jesus knows the future. 22
 - **Ex.: Maria** - Muslim convert to Christianity. **Jews**, same.
 - Don’t be afraid of those who kill the body; they can’t kill the soul.
 - Acknowledge Jesus publicly on earth, Jesus will acknowledge us. 32
 - Jesus didn’t come to bring peace, but a sword. Vs. 34 - -

Matthew 10 - ³⁴ "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— ³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

³⁷ "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."

- Jesus is not saying, "hate others." He is saying, "love me more."
- Jesus is saying, life will give you choices/ultimatums. Choose Jesus.
 - Take up your cross – **Publicly align w/ Jesus. Endure hardship.**
 - **Live worthy** of the sacrifice . . . He died for us.
 - *"The person whose calls you always take, that's the relationship you're in"* Do we take Jesus calls, or put Him on hold?
 - Deut. 13 – someone who tries to turn you away from the Lord should be purged.
 - **Give your life to Jesus** . . . He will give it back to you, better.
 - A life following Jesus has purpose, it matters for eternity; it's challenging, not easy; it's fulfilling, even when sacrificial.

Look back at Luke's story. In context.

- He's just told the **Parable of the Great Feast. Luke 14:15-24**
 - Invitations . . . but excuses. Bought field, oxen, married.
 - None of those "will get even the smallest taste" of the banquet.
 - Q: What excuses do we make?? [hate verses, 25-27]
- Then, one more point: **"Don't begin until you Count the Cost."** (vs. 28-33)
 - Enough \$ to build? Army to win war? Might need peace.
 - Can't be Jesus' disciple w/ giving up all that we own. **Vs 33.**
 - The life we cling to can deprive of us eternal life.
 - The cost of not turning to Jesus is immeasurable.

Matthew 19:29 – "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for the sake of My name will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life."