

“Why Believe in Jesus?”

A Man Worth Following

Context:

1. Eating wasn't just about a meal.

Who you ate with indicated who you SOCIALLY IDENTIFIED with. Your TRIBE.

2. Pharisees = Letter of the Law
Jesus = Heart of Law = Love

3. Deuteronomy 28 – Poor, crippled, lame and blind seen as deserving of their fate because of past sins.
Moral Superiority Issue, not Social standing.

Confidence of Pharisees based on religion, nationalism, health and wealth.

Q&A Time:

Situation where someone felt morally superior to you?

You felt morally superior to someone else?

How about a group that society, Christian society, has marginalized?

INVITE THEM OVER FOR DINNER!
MAKE THEM YOUR TRIBE!

Luke 6:41 – Whatever sin you think you see in someone else, consider that as a speck of dust to the 2x4 in your own eye!

4. Weak Sauce Excuses!

5. Not viewed as less fortunate, seen as getting what they deserved.

“I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” – Mahatma Gandhi

1. Luke 5:30 – “Why do you eat with Tax Collectors and Sinners?”

Luke 14:1-23 – One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. 2. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way.

Then He asked them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?” And they had nothing to say.

Then Jesus said to His host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 3. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

When one of those at the table with Him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed are those who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of God.” Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. 4. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ The servant came back and reported this to his master. 5. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ Then the master told his servant, 6. ‘Go out to the roads and country lands and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.’

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”—John14:9

6. Constantine—Luke 14:13

Began forcing through torture and murder.

Beginning of reign of terror in Christianity.

Jesus taught non-Violence

Compel: Not coerce, but to plead, or beg. Denotes Humility.

7. God's story: If you are hungry, no judging, come and eat! Just wants His house full!

8. How many blessed? Not just the Jews, not just Christians even! ALL!!!

9. Matthew 5-7—Gandhi & MLK Jr.

Closed Fist=Equal

Nakedness = Shame to _____

Carry > 1 Mile = Punishment

“Wrath of Gandhi”

10. Neighbor = Fellow Jew

11. Jesus was radical!

Pharisees had the kind of holiness that REPELLED sinners, Jesus had the kind of holiness that ATTRACTED sinners!

Jesus does not fit the BOX of the Pharisees (religious leaders of His day. Outcasts, outsiders, misfits, down cast, YOU ARE MY NEW TRIBE!

7. Isaiah 55:1 – Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

8. Genesis 22:18 – And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

9. Matthew 5:38-42 – “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth’... If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

10. Matthew 22:36-40 – “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment?” Jesus replied, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

11. Matthew 5:43 – “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in Heaven.

Luke 14:24 – I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.

Matthew 21:31 – Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God ahead of you.”

Punch line: You who so smugly and arrogantly judge me and this man I healed, so assured based on your religion, nationalism, health and wealth, without knowing it you are rejecting the invitation while the guy I just healed, he just took the first bite of the feast.

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”—John14:9