

*What Did Jesus  
Really Mean?*

17. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him,
18. having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.

**Ephesians 1:17-18**

For He is not a God of confusion and disorder but of peace and order.

**1 Corinthians 14:33**

# **Confusion must come from sources other than God**

- The “world” refers to the ungodly secular world system and people who do not understand or care about the Word of God
- The “flesh” is the lingering sinful nature Christians possess, so if they are not rooted and grounded in the Word of God, it corrupts their godly walk
- The “devil” refers to Satan and his demons who twist God’s Word, often while masquerading as angels of light and sow confusion

14. And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light;
15. So it is not surprising if his servants also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. [But] their end will correspond with their deeds.

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**

Sometimes confusion over what the Bible teaches originates from poor Bible translations, or even intentionally distorted translations. More often, though, confusion results from a lack of serious study among believers and the false preachers, teachers, and writers who are found on radio, television, and the Internet. These false prophets take even proper translations and, through both ignorance and design, twist and distort the Word of God to promote their own agenda or appeal to the thinking of the world. Instead of lazy Bible study and relying on others to teach us the Word of God, we should study God's Word diligently and rely on the Holy Spirit. He will open the heart to God's truth concerning Himself and His creation, prayer, worship, Christian love, our battle with Satan, personal conduct, church conduct, and achieving a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

Harsh responses to people who said they wanted to follow Jesus

21. Another of the disciples said to Him, Lord, let me first go and bury my father.
22. And Jesus said to him, Follow Me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.

**Matthew 8:21-22**

In Middle eastern and Jewish culture this language does not mean the father is dead or dying. His father was not in ill health. In fact, Middle eastern cultures all buried their dead immediately, within 24 hours. Neither is the disciple going to spend time mourning his father. The crux of the issue is that this disciple, like men of his time, knew that if he left home before his father's death - even if it took 40 years for his father to die - he would miss out on the inheritance. He's saying 'I've got to hang in there until I get my hands on my father's estate. Then I'll follow You Jesus.' This disciple's earthly inheritance hindered him from receiving the eternal inheritance in Christ. The disciple wanted to follow Jesus but only if it would cost him nothing. Both men from Matthew 8, the Scribe and the disciple, vanished as soon as they saw the price tag!

**Michael Youssef**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

Jesus requires you to cut off your hand

8. If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.
9. And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

**Matthew 18:8-9**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

We must hate our whole family

- 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.

**Luke 14:26-27**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

Jesus called a desperate woman a dog

22. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.
23. But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, Send her away, for she is crying out after us.
24. He answered, I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
25. But she came and knelt before Him, saying, Lord, help me.
26. And He answered, It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.

**Matthew 15:22-26**

26. And He answered, It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.
27. She said, Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.
28. Then Jesus answered her, O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire. And her daughter was healed instantly.

**Matthew 15:26-28**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

Jesus came to bring war not peace

- 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 set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.
- 36.** And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

**Matthew 10:34-36**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

Parables are so outsiders hear  
but don't understand

9. And He said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear.
10. And when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parables.
11. And He said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,
12. so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven."

**Mark 4:9-12**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

To become great you must be a servant

25. But Jesus called them to Him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.
26. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,
27. and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,
28. even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

**Matthew 20:25-28**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

Blessed when people insult  
and persecute you

11. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account.
12. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Matthew 5:11-12**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

Do not resist an evil person

But I tell you, do not resist an evil person.  
If anyone slaps you on the right cheek,  
turn to them the other cheek also.

**Matthew 5:39**

# **What Did Jesus Really Mean?**

Love your enemies

43. You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.
44. But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
45. so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

**Matthew 5:43-45**

17. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all.
18. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
19. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.
20. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.
21. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Romans 12:17-21**

## **What Did Jesus Really Mean? His Words were...**

- Entertaining, down-to-earth answers deliberately phrased to sometimes be shockingly memorable!
- Layered with double and triple meanings, a meaning for His immediate listeners but meanings that reveal new insights to each successive generation - even down to us.
- Answers to questions, that once we understand the context for true meaning, they still point us in the right direction today!

Ultimately, and most tragically, confusion about the Bible can lead to a false hope of salvation. And that is Satan's ultimate goal. When Satan tempted Jesus, he used misinterpretations of the Word of God for his attacks. Satan does the same thing today, taking a truth of Scripture and misapplying it. Satan is skilled at twisting the Word of God just enough so that it produces disastrous consequences, while still sounding like the Word of God.

## **PRAISE the LORD!**

God has given us His Holy Spirit and the command to share biblical truth with humility and patience, in and out of season and to study to show ourselves approved, as workers who correctly handle the word of truth until the Lord Jesus returns and puts an end to all confusion.

May the LORD of all glory bless you as seek Him through His word and He gives you opportunities to discover and share what **Jesus Really Does Mean!**