

**A 4 Week Study of Jesus’ Words**

**PART ONE**

**Grace Christian Church**

**Unit 45/9 Salisbury Road**

**Castle Hill, NSW 2155**

Within the Christian faith it is necessary for us, as Christians, to be reminded of biblical truths regarding our standing before God.

Too many followers of Jesus have been crippled in their lives, because of an incorrect view of God the Father; a misconception of God the Son; and ignorance of God the Holy Spirit.

Prayerfully this study series will enable us to carefully examine the scriptures, specifically, the words of the Lord Jesus, and draw from what He actually DID say in the scriptures, instead of the many falsities He did not. Sadly, these unbiblical falsities [lies], can cause guilt, shame, and hurt; because we adhere to things that do not, accurately, reveal God’s truth.

**“The problem is many of the things we believe Jesus would say to us are actually things He never said and never would say. They’re patently unbiblical and don’t represent the heart of Christ… We need to rethink our theology and let God’s revealed truth [the Bible] direct our beliefs about Him, not some fictitious statement that doesn’t even come close to representing how Jesus feels about us. In short we need to reject the things Jesus *DIDN’T* say and start believing the things He *DID*.”**

Will Davis

**[a] What are one of the ‘Christian things’ you have heard that are not actually Jesus’ words?**

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**Study 1 – Jesus Never Said…**

**You’re Too Far Gone to be Saved**

**The LIE**

*Jesus certainly didn’t die for the likes of you. You may have friends or family who are Christians, but they never messed up like you have. You’re crazy to think that God still wants you; you’re damaged goods. You’ve gone too far. How dare you think that God might still be willing to forgive you! How arrogant can you be? He gave you one chance after another, and now that you’ve blown it royally, you think He’s just going to forgive everything and call it even? No way. He’s done with you. There are just some sins God won’t forgive. There are just some people He won’t ever pardon. And guess what – you’re one of them.*

DISCUSS:

\***Did you ever feel that you were too far from God to be saved? Have you ever known anyone who felt that way? Have you ever worried about someone you love being too far gone for God to save? If so, can you give an example?**

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STUDY 1:

[1] What’s behind the thinking that certain people can’t be forgiven? What reasons can we have for thinking that some people just can’t be saved?

How do those reasons differ from what the Bible teaches? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Read John 3:1-15 & 4:1-29**

Discuss the observations you see about [1] Jesus, [2] the types of people He ministers to & [3] the results from these encounters.

[2] What’s the most radical example of conversion you’ve ever seen? In other words, who do you know to be a Christian now, when you never thought they would be?

[3] Read James 2:10–11. Why is someone who breaks only a small part of God’s law as guilty as someone who breaks all of it?

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[4] Read Psalm 51:1–7. What do David’s confessions and prayers tell us about sin, its origins in us, and how we can be forgiven?

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[5] Does the Bible teach that NO ONE is beyond saving?

Yes or No

Why?

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[6] After studying these truths, are you more confident in the biblical teaching that no one is beyond saving?

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[7] If so, how will that confidence impact how you view yourself and others?

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[8] If not, what are you still struggling with?

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**memory verse:**

Romans 7:24-25 (esv)

**O Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? [25] Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.**

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**Study 2 – Jesus Never Said…**

**I’m So Disappointed in You**

**The LIE**

*You are constantly letting God down. With every new day, He has a fresh full slate of hopes and dreams for your life, but by the end of each day, He’s facing the ugly reality that you’ve failed to be all that He hoped you would. Once again you haven’t lived up to God’s expectations.*

DISCUSS

**\*Describe a time you disappointed someone else. How did it make you feel? What about a time in your life when you felt like you disappointed God, what happened? How did you feel? After that, did things ever get better for you in your relationship with God?**

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STUDY 2:

[1] In your own words, state why it is impossible for a Christian to disappoint God. What is it about God’s character and nature that makes him immune to being disappointed in us?

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Read

Romans 3:10 Romans 3:23

Romans 7:18

[2] What do the above verses have to say about our ‘state’ before God.

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**Read Romans 5:1-9**

[3] What is the significance of this passage in relation to our ‘state’ before God (as discovered from question 2)?

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Romans 5:8

***But God shows His love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

If God were to speak the truth or Romans 5:8 to us directly & personally, then our name would take the place of the pronouns in this verse. What comfort can we draw from this Biblical truth?

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[4] How is the example of Peter (see Matthew 26:30-35) and his failure (see Luke 22:54-62) similar to our own failings in our relationship with Christ? How does Peter’s example encourage us to keep trying and not quit when we fail God? How did Jesus respond to Peter? How will he respond to us (see Mark 16:7 & John 21:15-25)?

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[5] Who in your life needs to be encouraged with the truth that he or she isn’t a disappointment to God? How can you help that person?

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[7] After studying this chapter, what disappointment or failure do you need to ‘let go of’ or ‘give up o’ Jesus? How will you live differently?

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**memory verse:**

Romans 5:8 (esv)

**But God shows His love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

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**Study 3 – Jesus Never Said…**

**This Wouldn’t Be Happening if You Were a Better Christian**

**The LIE**

*If you really loved God, you’d be good. Obviously, you don’t love Him. Why do you keep falling into the same sin over and over again? Why do you keep failing like you do? You must not be a very serious Christian.*

**“Have you ever heard those lies? I certainly have. I’ve often wondered if some of the bad events around me happened simply because I wasn’t more of a godly man. And when I start thinking that way, I can be sure shame and guilt aren’t far behind.”**

Will Davis

DISCUSS

**\*In your own words, restate the “if you were a better Christian” lie. Why do you think it’s both so common and so powerful?**

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[1] Do you know someone who is held captive by guilt over a poor choice in the past?

[2] Read Revelation 12:10–11. What does it say about the work of Satan in the world and how we overcome him? What three things are critical in our having freedom from Satan’s lies?

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[4] If you were counselling a woman who blamed herself for her son’s death, what would you say to her? How could you help free her from her guilt & shame, and direct her to Christ in the process?

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[5] Read Matthew 5:10–12; 10:22; Luke 6:22; John 15:18–19; and 16:33. How do those verses make you feel?

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(a) What reasons did Jesus give us for expecting to have trouble in the world?

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**“The disciples, the apostle Paul, and Jesus himself all suffered severe hardships in their lives. They were totally committed to and obedient to God, yet they still faced a lot of pain. What does that tell you about your own hardships and suffering?**”

[6] Since you know that bad things still happen to committed followers of Jesus, how might you handle the hardships you may find yourself in? How might you encourage somebody else who is in the midst of tragedy?

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[7] Define ‘guilt’ and then define ‘conviction’:

***Guilt:*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Conviction:*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many differences you can list between the two:

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| --- | --- |
| **GUILT** | **CONVICTION** |
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How can you learn to discern the difference between guilt and conviction in your own life?

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[8] Read John 14:15–18, 25–27; 15:26; 16:5–16; and 1 John 2:1. What can we learn about the work of God’s Spirit in our lives from these verses?

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(a) What characteristics of his voice and his teachings do these Scriptures show us?

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(b) According to 1 John 2:1, what happens when we sin?

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[9] After studying this chapter, how will you live differently?

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**Guilt or God?**

I have learned over the years that when I fail, I must run to – not from – God. You see, we often mistake the voice of guilt for the voice of God. They’re not the same, and it is time we learned the difference.

*“This isn’t my best for you. I want more for you than this, much more.”*

That’s the voice of God when He addresses us in our sin (see John 8:10-11). He tells the truth about it but He does so in a way that encourages us and draws us to ‘walk worthy’ of Himself (Colossians 1:10).

Behind any conviction or rebuke from our Lord regarding our sin – is His motive of love.

**memory verse:**

John 16:33 (esv)

**I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

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**Study 4 – Jesus Never Said…**

**It’s Ok Not to Love Certain People**

**The LIE**

*It’s OK to judge. It’s OK to condemn. It’s OK to write people off, avoid, criticize, dislike and even hate people whose lifestyles repulse you. The more sinful they are, the more it’s permissible to ‘bash’ them.*

Sadly, this is a view many people hold in various branches of Christendom. The idea that, because we are accepted by God through Jesus, we are ‘superior’ to those who do not know Him. Worse still, is the condemnation demonstrated by these Christians by ‘writing them off’ as hell-bound because their lifestyles; their conduct; or their speech.

DISCUSS

**\*Have you ever felt judged or rejected by another Christian? Why do we sometimes think it is permissible to judge or even hate others? Why do others’ lifestyles or beliefs often threaten us?**

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STUDY 4:

[1] Restate the “lost people act lost” principle in your own words. Why is it imperative for us to remember that when we are dealing with unbelieving people?

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**“Here is something to keep in mind: *expect lost people to act lost*. They’re not Christians, they hold neither my worldview, nor my values, and I shouldn’t expect them to act the way I do. You can’t expect people with a nature under the control of sin to act like they’re under the control of God’s Spirit.**

**Getting angry with an unbeliever for how he/she acts is no more effective than getting angry with a sick person for show symptoms of illness. Hating them for their spiritual disorder isn’t just unfruitful, it’s unbiblical.”**

**Read Mark 5:1-5**

The demon-possessed man could be likened to many unbelievers today. People who are under the influence of something they don’t see or understand in themselves. Harmful to others, harmful to themselves, people in such dire need for Jesus to speak into their lives light, love, & hope. But because of their differences we, more often than not, condemn, resist, or ignore them, instead of seeing them as God sees them.

[2] Observe how Jesus conducted Himself in relation to this man – what attitudes or actions could we apply to our lives?

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[3] List the attitudes recorded in Colossians 3:12-14 and define each one individually. How would each be expressed practically in our lives?

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[4] Name some people you know today who are acting lost. How should you respond to them?

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**A Testimony**

“When I was in school, Susie and I lived in a small rental house in a lovely part of Fort Worth, Texas.

We lived at the end of a street, and our house’s property was adjacent to a beautiful park. We loved the area and felt blessed to live there. Next door was a duplex, and the couple in the unit closest to us was delightful. They were Christians and shared our desire for a quiet, peaceful existence and keeping our children safe. We really enjoyed having them as neighbours.

Then they moved away and Kevin moved in. Kevin was the complete opposite of our first neighbours. He was single; he didn’t keep up his yard; he consistently held wild, late-night parties; and I seriously believe he was dealing drugs out of his house. One night Susie and I and both of our children were awakened by a loud crash against our house. When I went outside to investigate, I found a broken beer bottle lying in our yard. It had been thrown against the wall right next to our daughter’s bedroom by one of Kevin’s friends. Needless to say, I was furious. It was one thing for Kevin to party in his own yard, but quite another for his rude behaviour to spill over into mine.

Not long after, Kevin got a roommate whose name was Tonya…She and Kevin were living lives completely opposite to Susie and me. They really bugged us. They were sleeping together outside of marriage, doing and dealing drugs, and, in my humble opinion, ruining our neighbourhood. I really didn’t like them or care for their lifestyle.

I’ve neglected to mention that while I was living next door to Kevin and Tonya, I was a pastor and a doctoral student at one of the largest theological institutions in the world. If there was anyone on earth who should have understood why my neighbours were acting as they did, it was me. If anyone should have been able to muster up some compassion for these two obviously lost people, it was me. And if anyone should have known that lost people act lost, that we are all the same before God, and that I was in need of grace as much as my drug-dealing neighbours, well, it was me. I was being trained on a postgraduate level to lead churches to reach people like Kevin and Tonya. God had dropped two card-carrying lost people right next door to me, two people I could love in Jesus’ name, and I was too arrogant to see it.

The Holy Spirit, however, was working on me. I got convicted about my attitude toward my neighbours and began praying for a chance to witness to them. And then Tonya’s car broke down in front of my house. It sat there, right in front of my porch, for nearly two weeks. And every day it sat there, I got angrier and angrier. It was like salt on the already open wound of my dislike and disgust for my neighbours. I never made the connection between my prayer for a chance to witness to them and the opportunity the Spirit had given me to serve them by helping Tonya with her car.

Finally, I walked over one day and knocked on their door. Tonya came to the door, looking high. I asked her to move her car. She said she was waiting for her dad to come work on it and that she would move it when she could. *That’s it. That’s the extent of my evangelistic efforts with my lost neighbours*.

Tonya knew me as the irritated neighbour who wanted her to move her clunker away from the front of his house. She didn’t know me as the follower of Jesus who had been strategically placed next door to her to help her see the love of the Saviour who had died for her. After my conversation with Tonya, things got quiet next door. We didn’t see or hear from Kevin or Tonya for several weeks. Her car had been moved, and the house was quiet and still. It was as if God had answered our prayers. We were happy. Several weeks later, I was driving home from church. It happened to be Easter, and I was wearing my Sunday best and still glowing from the awesome Easter services I had just participated in. It was springtime in Fort Worth, so the flowers were out and church attendance was up. Things couldn’t have been any better. As I turned onto my street, I saw Kevin’s car in his and Tonya’s driveway.

Before I had time to react, I saw Kevin trying to get out of his car. I say “trying” because his arm was in a huge cast. He had a full cast from his wrist up to his shoulder. It wasn’t in a sling; rather, it was supported by a metal brace that protruded from his hip, which kept his arm extended from his body at a right angle. It was so big and awkward that he was having trouble getting out of his small car. I stopped in front of my house and immediately walked up to Kevin.

This time my concern for him was real. He had obviously been seriously injured. I greeted him. “Kevin, what happened? Are you okay?” He answered, “You didn’t hear? Tonya’s dead.”

He continued talking. He said something about a terrible car crash in Dallas ... seven people in the car ... he was driving ... Tonya didn’t make it. I really didn’t hear much of what he said. It was as if I had been punched in the stomach. I immediately felt sick and wanted to throw up. I mumbled something to Kevin about how sorry I was and how I was there if he needed me. *I’ve probably never spoken emptier or more meaningless words in my life*. ***God had given me the perfect opportunity to love two lost people. Instead, I had treated them as my enemies***. They were acting exactly as their respective sin natures were telling them to. I was just too impatient and holier-than-thou to see what was really going on. I have no idea how things might have been different if I had chosen to love Tonya and Kevin. I’ll never know. But here’s what I do know—I have no reason to believe that Tonya was a Christian, and now she’s dead. I have to live with that the rest of my life.”

[5] In light of this testimony, what negative (or positive) attitudes can you align yourself with?

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[6] Are there any ‘Kevin’s and Tonya’s’ in your life? Who has God placed in your world so you can help them to see Jesus?

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[7] How can your heart change toward unbelievers?

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[8] After studying this chapter, how will you live differently?

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**memory verse:**

Colossians 3:12 (esv)

**Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering**

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**Spare Notes**

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