

12 interesting statements by Jesus

1. Matthew 6:4

“Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.”

I am stunned at those who go on social media or TV to proclaim they forgive their attacker. It bothers me when rich people post the deeds they have done to share their kindness. If you go back two verses Jesus gives his answer to our scripture today Matthew 6:2 **“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.”**

Have you ever held a juicy secret? Oh I know, it’s hard to keep, especially if it’s a good one. Give someone back a thousand dollars you found and don’t tell anyone what you did. The intensity of that anxiety is extremely powerful. If you tell people about that deed, the intensity and power leaves your heart in my opinion. Something is lost when we boast or brag about the things we have done. Doing well and knowing your good should be good enough. The whole world does not need to know. In a way Jesus is saying “Be proud of your God and your efforts in private.”

This Christmas do a good deed because you can. Jesus is many things to many people. If you read his story you will notice he hid many times. He told people to keep their and his deeds a secret. What can you do that will bless someone else. Somehow and someday God “May” reward you in this life or the next. The kicker is the reward. Do you need one to do well? So if you love praise and only do well in public; the praise you get, right then and there, will be the only reward you will ever receive.

2. Matthew 10:24-25

“Students are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. 25

Students share the teacher’s fate, and slaves share the master’s fate. And since I, the master of the

household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!"

There is a statement that I heard that says "What a man allows will happen." Now we can debate that what a woman allows happens too. I get it, but if a man says no then who will say yes? There is another word from Jesus that says in Matthew 5:37 **"Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."** There is nothing better than a confident assured person. You can trust their yes and trust their no. Our word from Jesus today is all about being a person of good character.

1 Corinthians 15:33 is my favorite verse. **"Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."** Really the whole Bible is about character. Adam and Eve blew their trust and honesty with God. David blew his trust and character by his actions in adultery and murder. I love the statement before he committed those sins. In the days when kings went to war David stayed home. Out of character deeds usually cause trouble. His children and descendants were never the same after his actions.

Jesus words above are a warning about what we do and say. We are a master to some and a student to others. Someone is always watching how we live. This Christmas, be a person of good character. Be firm in your "Yes" and "No." They say "Do what is right in Gods eyes." I will go further and say "Do what is right in your eyes." Be someone that lives a life worth living. Be an honorable student and an honorable master. Make sure your company does not corrupt someone else's good character.

3. Matthew 26:52

"Put away your sword," Jesus told him. **"Those who use the sword will die by the sword."**

There is a post war era thought these days that if were peaceful then evil will disappear. Many who follow Jesus believe with all their heart that loving and hugging bad people will change their hearts.

Jesus also stated in John 6:65 **“That is why I said that people can’t come to me unless the Father gives them to me.”** People can’t change evil hearts, only God can. We think we are able but were not. The love we spread can only be received. If a person rejects it then it’s their choice not ours. You can’t force love on anyone.

Now with that said Karma is an interesting word. It means action or deed. So I suppose that it could refer to the things we do or the things done to us. Someone said payback or Karma is a bitch: they meant that we could get what’s coming to us. Murphy’s Law states “Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.” So the Bible took the lead by saying that what “You use” could and usually will “Be used” against you. Maybe that’s why the police say that anything you say may or will be used against you.

I guess if you’re a liar then your lies might catch up with you. If you live a violent life in a gang you might get killed by a gang. Forrest Gump said “Stupid is what stupid does.” Jesus is just pointing out the obvious. Some Christians say that we should never kill. That might be noble but the killer does not care what you believe when their killing your family. Jesus also says to bind up the strong man before you take him down in Luke 6:39. Our verse today refers to how we live our lives. I think honorable people die honorably. Bad people never die with dignity. This Christmas make it your mission to live by a good sword so that you will one day die by a good sword.

4. Mark 2:17

When Jesus heard this, he told them, **“Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they’re righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”**

There are two statements in this world that astound me. One is “When I clean up my act I’ll come to church.” The second is “Church is where the hypocrites are.” If those are Jesus words above, then maybe we need to read them again slowly. The way things seemingly are, is

so vastly different than the way we think they should be. Yet, Jesus said this world would be a certain way and it is.

Why do you need to clean up your act first? Jesus says he came to help the sick. Now I realize that cleaning up our act and sick seem different. The sick part is interesting. It means that thinking a lewd lifestyle is just fine. To God that is a sick way of living life. The other side is that Christians make us feel we need to be clean. That is sad because there are no clean Christians. What Jesus wants and what Christians want are not always the same thing. If there is any cleaning to do, it will be through Jesus only.

Let's talk about this hypocrite thing. I became a Christian at 33. I did not grow up in a Christian home. In church I have felt dirty because of the way some Christians have viewed me. I have changed through Jesus but I will always be dirtier than many Christians. The hypocrite part is in the dirt. Christians have more dirt than they will ever show. They love to be dirty but love to hide it. That is the hypocrite part. Realize I said they are and not Jesus. Jesus is fine with your dirt. If you ask him to make you cleaner, he will. You will be cleaner in Jesus eyes so it does not matter what the hypocrites think.

5. Mark 3:28-29

“I tell you the truth, all sin and blasphemy can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. This is a sin with eternal consequences.”

There is this debate about who can go to heaven. What is the unpardonable sin? Is there something that prohibits you from going to heaven? There are many that believe that all good people are going to heaven. I think that is true, but who is good? We all think were good in our own eyes. The scripture above is connected to Jesus. The Bible says in John 3:16 that whomever

Believes in Jesus is saved. John 14:6 goes further to say the only way in is through Jesus. That is not good news to good people.

Why is the Bible so strict on who can get in? Why Jesus only? It all comes back to believing. If you hate church then why do you want to go to heaven? Isn't heaven a church like atmosphere. I don't think there will be bars and heavy metal concerts in heaven. If you don't like God stuff here then why go to Gods heaven? To believe in Jesus is to be changed. To believe in Jesus is to want the things of God. Those that eject the things of God really don't want Gods heaven, they want there own.

The unpardonable sin is unbelieving. Those that don't believe are not going to heaven. To not want to be with God is the greatest sin to God. Why do those who hate God get to go to Gods heaven? The only thing that is rejected by God is rejection of him. It is a simple concept. If you don't want God, then you don't have to be with God. I think the unpardonable part is that those who reject God go to hell. Once you do that there is no changing your mind in hell.

6. Mark 9:23

“What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”

This is such an interesting verse. I love this verse because Jesus is amazed he asked that question. I bet Jesus had been healing and doing some miracles for a while. The man should have known Jesus could and would. I suppose he was just asking if he was interested in healing his son. Then again this was a doozy in the father's eyes. Could anybody heal his boy? People have taken this verse in many ways. I will talk about two of them.

One: is being healed. Sometimes we have faith based on whether Jesus will heal us or not. Well if he does then I believe more. If Jesus does not, then something is wrong. Either God does not exist or we are bad people. Are believing and healing connected. This verse says no they are not. The man is unsure if Jesus can or will heal his son. Jesus is surprised either way but heals the boy. that is good because we all have things that need healing.

Two: What is enough faith? I have had people say that were not healed because of our faith. So those who really believe are healed. Well if that were true wouldn't Billy Graham be healed of Parkinson disease. Sister Teresa would have walked on water with the faith she had. Jesus knew that faith is a growing thing. We experience God and our faith grows. The man in the verse above has enough faith to come to Jesus. That is much more than many do in this world today. Jesus is willing and that is good news because many of us have wavering faith.

7. Luke 9:62

But Jesus told him, **“Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”**

I shudder at this verse. When people do us wrong we tend to remember forever. I know my wife still brings up words I said 11 years ago. Bad deeds run deep when were the victim. I think Jesus says these words because he knows how trapped we get in our hearts. Some bad things never get solved. A man murders a spouse and we never forget. If we get stuck in life, you could get side tracked for years. How do we get past the past?

I think the answer Jesus poses is that anger, jealousy, unforgiveness, and blame will weigh heavy on our lives. So heavy that we will never function well. How can we enjoy life and do our part if were weighed down? The answer is a tough one. We have to get past this burden.

Jesus said he can take our burdens. How can he do that? They are ours and that runs deep. I think we can forgive, but forgetting is another matter. The point is we have to. God said to Cain in Genesis 4 that he had to let it go because sin was lurking at his door. That is, it in a nut shell.

Jesus and God are always looking forward. The past is the past. The mind needs to be flipped. In our hearts we must see that some things are what they are. Actions cannot be undone. Maybe bad things happen, but the flip is that good things happen too. We need to look forward to the good and not dwell in the house of the bad. It's not so much that dwelling keeps us out of heaven. It's that when we dwell on the past we become the very thing that is not in heaven.

8. Luke 16:10

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.”

In some ways this might be the most profound statement Jesus ever made. There are so many little things we ignore. Did I check my finances before my decision in a store? Did I make sure I said I love you to my family today? There are small things that we need discipline in. I think some people excel because of their attention to little details. Those like Gretzky and Jordan were always last off at practice.

Our faith is grown by how we live our lives. I knew a lady who prayed for good prices before she shopped. I knew a man who lived his life for God but died a smoker. Both of these people had tremendous faith. Who thinks of praying before getting groceries? Who says “Gee the prices were terrible today.” Who misses a man who smoked? He always said “I shouldn't.” Yes, he shouldn't. If God says take care of your body, then have the faith to listen in a grocery store and with your next habit.

Jesus is so real in his words. We tend to read over or blow off thousands of statements in the Bible. I mean the Bible is so big. Leave the little statements to the pastor and theologian. Yet, here we have Jesus making powerful sense. When we drive we should check twice in all our mirrors. When we eat we should check what's in the box. When we chose a mate we should check with those who loved us first. It's always the little things that kill us. Jesus is just pointing out that lazy might come in little packages.

9. Luke 18:16-17

Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, **“Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. 17 I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”**

This is one of the coolest statements by Jesus. We tend to read ones like this and smile. Oh how nice to think of the kids. I sure hope heaven is like kindergarten. I want to play and have fun in heaven. I believe that is about all we see in this set of scriptures. Oh but I think this section means so much more. Is it possible that children trust, love, and care more than adults?

Somewhere along the way we loose the child in us. Certain things become impossible and unattainable, but not to a child. Children hope, dream, and wonder about the future. There is no worry, hatred, and pride. All our life experiences change us. Some of it is for the good and some is down right nasty. Being raped, cheated, and lied too will change us. We will see things through the lens of what has happened. Jesus hopes to open our eyes and hearts.

Jesus says “Look, life is nuts, but we can see it differently.” We could take life as it comes as a child does. We could trust more. We should play more and have fun. I think so many think their darn important. The stick up their donkey is large. Generally, children are not stuck up.

Jesus is asking us to open ourselves to the wonder that might come. Stop saying, I know and begin to search and ask questions. We need to keep growing in wonder like a child. This statement by Jesus is about opening us up to life.

10. John 6:65

Then he said, **“That is why I said that people can’t come to me unless the Father gives them to me.”**

I know Christian church denominations that have built their foundation on saving people. They believe they can do something to make people believe. The troubling part is that they tend to create programs more than they pray to God. They miss the part where: this is by God’s will and by his plan. Does that mean we should do nothing: certainly not?

Our prayer must have legs. God will provide us opportunities to spread his love. Are we listening. Are we seeing what he sees. Are we willing to move when God pushes us towards a person? God says go here and we should go. We may get a feeling within ourselves to talk to a stranger, could that feeling be acted on. Is God directing you towards others? I knew a lady who said every morning “Ok God, where are we going today.” That is how we could be ready to be a part of what Jesus and God the Father are doing.

The Christian church needs to rethink its position in this world. Programs that attract should be replaced with listening parties. On the flip side are you listening. Do you hear the tiny voice inside asking you to come? God is always calling us back to him. The Bible says God always provides a way out of trouble. The path towards people is being cleared beforehand by the Lord. The path to God is always cleared too. To say you need to be clean before you can come to God is not true. The road to him has already been made.

11. John 9:41

“If you were blind, you wouldn’t be guilty,” Jesus replied. “But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.”

Oh how often do we say that we didn’t know. The excuses pile up. The other side is a strange place. There are those who claim they know Gods will for them. They make decisions that are clearly wrong, but they push ahead because they say God has given them authority. The Pharisees in the Bible claimed that God was directing them. Jesus always told people that those men think they have God’s market cornered. Being certain that you’re in Gods court is a dangerous place.

How often do people reflect on some of the decisions they make. We usually hear them make claims like “I really thoughts I knew Gods plan.” The trouble with this type of thinking is that it puts God in a box. God always said his ways are not our ways. I don’t think Joshua would have marched around Jericho for seven days, but God would. I think the real concern is that deep inside we do know. We just want to see what works in human terms. Our pride of receiving credit is crucial.

What will happen when we stand before Jesus in Heaven. Will we be welcomed in or will we have to make account for the wrongs we did? The Bible says that we will give account. The worst part might be trying to justify all that we were given down here. We knew the truth, yet we chose to do it our way. We could see the way God wanted to go, but we chose to ignore that because it did not fit our agenda. It might be better to enter heaven blind.

12. John 14:6

Jesus told him, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”**

Well this statement kind of breaks the bank. This is the proverbial line in the sand. Jesus claims he is the only way to heaven. I know that probably 90% of the world (even Christians) refuse to believe that. A relative of mine said he just could not believe that God would make Jesus the only way. That answer is common because we need other ways. Those who love Jesus are few and far between. The rest of us are scrambling for better choices into heaven: like all good people go there.

This choice is simple really. Accept Jesus face value or don't. God's word says your in if you choose Jesus and find another heaven if you don't. Jesus said quite clearly that he would divide families and nations. People would hate his name and they certainly do. We need another way into heaven. I believe I am good and that needs to be good enough. Strange that we require passports to enter a country, plane, or consulate. We need papers to prove we are accredited, licenced, and qualified. Yet, somehow God is not allowed to require anything into his home.

I suppose we have decided that heaven is for us. It is our eternal resting home. We deserve to go there because it was built for us. In reality we believe heaven is our home and not Gods. Sure Jesus and God constructed it, but that's a mute point. We own it point blank. I guess that is the rub. God built his heaven and invites us to come. I suppose we have told him thanks but it's ours now, so go take a flipping hike God. How do we get to this heaven? Must we die, travel, or what? Do we have a key? I guess it comes down to the way. Jesus claims there is one

way and we say there are others. One day we will find out for sure. Planning a trip is smart. I hope you planned your heaven trip well, and all the documents you need.