



## Jesus Never Said That

**OVERVIEW:** "All that glitters isn't gold" is as true for jewelry and bobbles as it is for words of wisdom. We have heard many sayings, that seem full of wisdom, attributed to the Bible or Jesus. Regularly these sayings aren't found in the Bible, and sometimes, they are contradictory to the teachings of Jesus. In this sermon series called Jesus Never Said That, we explore some popular sayings and find what Jesus would have really said.

## NEW SERMON SERIES July 2 - August 20

### July 2 • God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle

When we read what Paul was telling the Corinthians, we can see that he wasn't trying to tell them that they would only ever get trials and temptations that they could handle. He was telling them, and specifically them: "buck up." They (the Corinthians) aren't experiencing wildly different trials. These tests are regular enough to be common. But we shouldn't expect that this test, or any other, is within our means to handle. We are sinners and are very capable of creating situations that are beyond our ability to navigate. In fact, the very notion of sin puts us into a debt with our LORD that we cannot overcome. Thank God for Jesus and His unending grace. --I Corinthians 10:13

### July 9 • That's Not Fair

Bad things happen in the world. When they happen to us, sometimes we can put God on trial. There are also some who decide they will live by their own rules, living by the motto "no one can judge me but God." We don't have the mind of God, which is why you wouldn't want to be judged by Him. He knows all about us. Our thoughts, our words and our deeds. His judgment is much more severe, taking into account every possible outcome. But He gives grace. Grace isn't fair. It is given repeatedly to the point of being ludicrous. Our Lord is not fair, thanks be to God! --Acts 10:34-40; John 7:21-27

### July 16 • Everything Happens for a Reason

The problem with this often-recited trope is that it removes personal responsibility. How could we fight against God's will? I guess we should let cancer ravage our bodies. We should let warlords continue pillaging and destroying. This way removes God from the world. He sent His Holy Spirit into the world to guide His people. Not that their free will be limited but rather that they might be harnessed for the good of the Kingdom of God. --Romans 8:28

### July 23 • God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

This saying speaks to the American ideal of individualism. That we can pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and in so trying we will be aided by God. This saying is not in the Bible. It could even be interpreted as heretical (Pelagian)! But we still hold onto the idea. We like that we can have control. Our world is full of situations in which we find ourselves hopeless. But the LORD God is God of the hopeless. He sent His son to help precisely because we could not help ourselves. --John 11:38-44; Ephesians 2:1-9

### July 30 • Money Is the Root of All Evil

Money is not the problem. Love of money is always a problem. Loving money is loving a thing that would take the place of God. This idolatry leads the wayward to decisions and lifestyle choices that seem reasonable but are, in fact, evil. Money is a tool and a very effective one. It allows for the smooth trade of goods and services so that our society can function, but it is not the goal of a life well lived. We know money has power and we can either use it, which is good and as God intended, or fall into its grasp. --I Timothy 6:6-10; Matthew 6:19-24

### August 6 • Listen to Your Heart

If it feels good, do it; if it doesn't, don't. These are the words of wisdom that many hear and think of as truth. Emotion, however, is not truth. Emotions are gifts from God to pay attention to things in our life. To help us experience, recognize and enjoy the events of this gift of life. But they aren't the deciding factor. Imagine if Jesus didn't feel like mounting the cross? What would have happened if the Israelites actually did turn back to Egypt? We are the master of our emotions. God gave us all these as gifts to use; let's make sure we use them well. --Romans 5:1-5

### August 13 • Christians Have to Always Be Nice

All Christians are nice, always. Yes. And if you believe that, there's some ocean-front property I want to sell you in Kansas. There is no way a Christian, or anyone else, can be nice all the time. Christians, like everyone else, are allowed to have different emotions. Jesus Himself wept, and overturned tables in anger. What a Christian is supposed to do is not plot against others. We are to seek their well-being and make the concerns of others our concerns. --Ephesians 4:31-32

### August 20 • Love the Sinner Hate the Sin

"I love you, but..." The love of God is unconditional. Anything less than unconditional love is not the love of God. We, Christians, are to reflect God's love in the world, and that love is not stipulated. So we love like God loved us. What is more, we can recognize that He loves us with our sin. We don't need to be judgmental about another's sin because we are not perfect ourselves. We don't need to point out those sins which are not socially acceptable. We can love 'em all and let God sort 'em out. --Romans 12:9-18



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