

The, in your face,
honesty of Jesus
Part 2

Oh, the things Jesus says
Part 2
1/22/2012

“The infinite Life of God himself took shape before us. We saw it, we heard it, and now we’re telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. Our motive for writing is simple this: We want you to enjoy this, too.” 1 John 1:2-4, (The Message)

The goal of this series is not to just describe Jesus. The goal is to experience him. More words about Jesus are helpful only if they bring us to an experience of him.

Jesus is a straight shooter

I can count on Jesus to tell me the truth in the best possible way for me to hear it.

Here are five examples that would make us cringe if we had been there when Jesus spoke these words and what we can learn:

1. Don’t sugar-coat it.

One disciple seems ready to enlist: “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” Mt 8:19

Jesus: “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” V.20

BD: “Great glad to have you! Should be lots of fun and a thrill-a-minute.”

2. Do make it urgent

Another disciple: “Lord, first let me go and bury my father” V 21

Jesus: “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own.” V 22

BD: “I completely understand – family first, please give my condolences to your family. I’m so sorry for your loss.”

3. Don’t be intimidated

To: Nicodemus – who as a scholar and teacher really shouldn’t be so clueless

Jesus: “You are Israel’s teacher...and do you not understand these?” John 3:10

BD: “Nicodemus, you’re probably right.”

4. Do make it personal

Judas: “Surely not I, Rabbi?”

Jesus: “Yes, it is you.” Matt 26:25

BD: “I could be wrong. My crystal ball isn’t want it used to be.”

But let’s focus our attention on another dinner engagement. This one at the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. As far as I can tell, it was the very first time that Jesus visited their home. It would become his favorite place to stop and rest during his 3.5 years of ministry. But on this first visit, Jesus is pulled into a sibling rivalry:

5. Do explain that it is their choice

“As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” Luke 10:38-40

Jesus is *her* guest, in *her* home, where *she* has prepared the dinner and *she* is throwing a little fit! What to do? What to do?

If you had been the guest there that day, instead of Jesus, what would you have done?

Most of us, including myself, would have tried to “diffuse” the situation, by hopping up and helping Martha.

But the original problem still exists.

The dinner gets fixed, the meal gets served, the tension seems to be lessened but Martha is still trapped in her sin.

Now usually at this point we would hear a message about “Duty vs Devotion” and focus our attention on not letting “life” distract us from begin with Jesus. (And rightly so)

I have heard messages on Martha.

I have heard messages on Mary.

But I have never heard a message on the loving courage of Jesus to say what everyone else knows but won’t say.

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:41-42

Jesus’ tone seems very different here than with the earlier Pharisee.

It is a softer blow; because he is dealing with a softer heart.

You get the sense that although Martha is in a snit at the moment, She would be softened by the truthfulness of Jesus’ words.

Most of the time, we remain silent, or if we do say something, it is something other than the Truth. We think we are being “polite” or “non-judgmental.”

But our silence dooms the other person to remaining that hardened Pharisee or controlling Martha for the rest of our lives.

Jesus is the boy in the tale of “The Emperor’s New Clothes.”

While everyone else fans and feigns, pretending, looking the other way, Jesus says, “Excuse me, but it you know that you are buck naked?”

Let me conclude this message with an illustration.

Every day, we come across people who are injured and broken, who desperately need someone who will tell them the truth.

Think of it this way:

Imagine that you have broken your leg in 3 different places.

The surgeon understands that in order to help you, he is gonna have to hurt you. In order to reset this bone, the cut must be made. Once he starts cutting on you, it’s gonna hurt.

But what’s the alternative, the surgeon could say:

“OK since this is gonna be so painful, let just forget about the fact that your leg is broken in 3 pieces and that you will never walk normally again. Plus you will live in pain for the rest of your life. I think, in time, it will probably all work out just fine. Just gone on home, have a great day and I’ll see you around.”

If this ever happened to you, you would sue for malpractice. Yet when God does surgery on us, we accuse him of being mean, angry

and rude. Ironic. God wants to use you to speak the truth to others.
Do not be afraid. Do it for his glory and the good that it will bring.