

The Three Most Surprising Things Jesus Said

- The things that Jesus said were often a significant shock to the Religious World of his time
- He really shook up the Jewish establishment with his revolutionary message of inclusion
- The Jews had rested for centuries on the belief that they were the chosen people of God
- Jesus came along and told them that ANYONE who loves and obeys God will be accepted
- All men, both Jew and Gentile, are able to be saved if they believe in Jesus and are baptized
- Of course, having someone upset a social, financial and political position that you've held for many years is going to be very upsetting
- But, the Jews were upset even more by some of the things that Jesus said
- Let's look at John 10
- John 10:30-33
 - 30) **I and the Father are one.**
 - 31) The Jews picked up stones again to stone him.
 - 32) Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?"
 - 33) The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."
- Of course this would be upsetting
- One of the fundamental teachings of the Old Testament is:
- But, some of the things that he said is from Deuteronomy 6
- Deuteronomy 6:4
 - 4) Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
- This is a fundamental truth of the Bible
- There is only one God, and he is distinct and unique
- The Jews misunderstood that Jesus was saying that he and God share the same purpose
- They thought he was claiming to be equal with God, and were rightfully upset by that message

- Jesus had specifically chosen the Sabbath as the battleground on which to fight the Jews
- Jesus performed many of his healings and miracles on the Sabbath
- This infuriated the Jews
- He was doing good works, but he wasn't following their Law and Traditions
- But, the things that Jesus said weren't solely upsetting to the Jewish Leaders
- His own disciples were quite taken aback by some of things that Jesus said
- One of his sayings that really must have had them shaking their heads was four chapters earlier in John 6
- John 6:35-59
- Jesus was trying to teach them that there is no other way to Eternal Life except through him
- You must be baptized and take the Memorial Emblems in remembrance of him in order to be a part of the salvation to come
- This was a very hard concept for his disciples to "swallow" – No pun intended...
- Look at verse 60
- John 6:60

60) When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"
- It even goes on to say in verse 66
- John 6:66

66) After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.
- It wasn't just the unfaithful Jews who had a hard time accepting some of the difficult things that Jesus had to say
- His Disciples were often surprised by what Jesus had to say as well
- And what about us?
- What things that Jesus says do we find surprising?
- I was curious, so I Googled it
- What are the most surprising things that Jesus said?

- It was a fairly unique search, so there were only about 34,000,000 results
- But, I went through the most popular, and arrived at three for us to consider today
- Firstly:
- Matthew 15:21-28

- 21) And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
- 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."

- These may be the most surprising of Jesus' words in the entire New Testament
- A woman who is not Jewish approaches Jesus during a dinner
- Kneeling before him, she pleads for healing for her daughter, who has an "unclean spirit"
- Jesus answers with sharp words which - whether in the first century or today – by any measure seem highly insulting
- Jesus seems to be comparing the woman and her daughter to dogs
- Or, at best, he's calling the entire Canaanite Race dogs
- The woman's response is amazing under the circumstances

 - 27) She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

- Hearing this, Jesus seems to soften and says,
 - 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.

- But, the question remains...
- Why did Jesus speak to this woman like this?
- Was he testing her faith?
- Was he just tired and responded out of weakness?
- Personally, I think that there is another possibility
- I think that Jesus learned something from this woman
- It's not unreasonable to think that even at this point in his Life Jesus wasn't beyond the ability to learn to better follow God
- Second
- Luke 14:25-26
 - 25) Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,
 - 26) "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.
- Did Jesus really mean that we're supposed to hate our parents, our spouse, our children, and our brothers and sisters?
- Of course not...
- Jesus commands us to love one another?
- What Jesus is saying is that our love for Him and God should look in comparison to what we feel for our family, like that of hating them
- That is, we must love God first and then, later down the line, love our neighbor and family
- Jesus gives us a better grasp on this statement in Matthew 10
- Matthew 10:37
 - 37) Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me
- To love Christ is to love Him much, much more than anyone, including our family

- Lastly, let's look at something surprising that Jesus says in his last moments...

- Luke 22:39-42

- 39) And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him.
- 40) And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."
- 41) And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,
- 42) saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

- I find this a quite surprising...

- In simple terms what Jesus is saying here is, "I don't want to die"

- In the Garden of Gethsemane, after the Last Supper and before he is arrested by the soldiers, Jesus "falls to the ground" and utters this prayer

- This passage provides us a window into an intimate moment with Jesus as he contemplates his upcoming Sacrifice

- The surprising thing to me is that he saw this coming for over 20 years

- We know that Jesus had been studying the Old Testament since he was at least 12 years old

- He would have been very familiar with the many prophecies and allusions in the Old Testament to the fact that the Savior must be slain for the salvation of many

- His Disciples had a hard time understanding this, and Jesus made it very clear to them

- Matthew 16:21

- 21) From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

- You would have thought that being so clear with his Disciples, Jesus would have been prepared and ready for this day to come

- It doesn't appear so...

- Jesus was human
- Hebrews 4 tells us that Jesus was tempted in every point like as we are
- He really struggles with facing the end
- Continue reading in Luke 22
- Luke 22:43-44
 - 43) And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.
 - 44) And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
- This isn't a description of a simple decision
- This time is described in Verse 44 as Agony – “Severe Mental Struggles and Emotional Anguish”
- I don't even know what “sweat like great drops of blood” means, but think of the powerful emotional connection in those words
- Once Jesus fully realizes that it is his Father's will that he die, he accepts his fate
- But in this prayer in Gethsemane, we get a glimpse of a human being in distress
- We tend to think of Jesus as someone unmoved by such basic human instincts as the desire to stay alive, or even the desire to avoid pain
- We tend to see him as some perfect specimen that moved through life in absolute obedience to his Father, almost like a robot
- But here we see this fully human being expressing fully human emotions
- “*Remove this Cup*” is a surprise to us when we overly focus on Jesus being the perfect example of Holiness, and forget that he was a man with like passions as we have
- This is the man who saved us
- This is the man that we are here to worship today
- This is the man that we remember now in these Memorial Emblems, as he instructed us to do