



Revealing Words Bible Study

“The Forgotten Jesus”

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The Forgotten Jesus

Many people gravitate toward the comforting, gentle, and affirming aspects of Jesus’ ministry. His compassion for the broken, His mercy toward sinners, His healing touch. These are beautiful and essential truths. But the same Jesus who welcomed children also confronted hypocrisy, demanded repentance, and spoke words that cut to the heart. Modern culture often prefers a softened version of Jesus, one who never offends, never divides, and never calls for costly obedience. Yet the Bible presents a Jesus who is both **loving** and **righteous**, both tender and unyielding. Ignoring Jesus’ harder teachings doesn’t make them disappear; it only weakens our discipleship and witness. To follow Jesus fully, we must embrace not only His comfort but also His correction. Here are verses that show the forgotten Jesus we don’t like to share with the world but we should.

Jesus Brings Division

In Luke 12:51-53, Jesus explains that His coming will not result in universal peace but in deep division, even within families. His message forces people to choose allegiance, and that choice inevitably creates conflict. The hard truth here is that following Jesus is not a path to social harmony or universal approval. Loyalty to Him may cost relationships, comfort, and acceptance. Discipleship is not merely about personal spirituality, it reshapes every allegiance we have and some people will not understand or accept that shift in their lives.

Jesus Demands Ultimate Allegiance

In Luke 14:26, Jesus uses strong, hyperbolic language about “hating” one’s family in comparison to following Him. He is not commanding literal hatred but emphasizing that loyalty to Him must surpass every earthly relationship. The hard truth is that Jesus does not accept partial devotion. He demands first place. Above family, culture, identity, and personal desires. Discipleship is costly, and Jesus refuses to soften that reality. Many want a Jesus who fits into their lives, Jesus insists that He becomes the center of it.

Jesus Redefines Family

When Jesus’ biological family comes to see Him, He responds by saying that His true family consists of those who do God’s will (Mark 3:31-35). This can sound dismissive, even harsh, but it reveals a deeper truth: spiritual identity outweighs biological ties. The hard truth is that belonging to Jesus creates a new family with new priorities. Faithfulness to God may require

stepping outside cultural expectations or family pressures. Jesus is not anti-family, He is pro-God's kingdom, and God's kingdom reorders everything.

“Let the Dead Bury Their Own Dead”

A man expresses a desire to follow Jesus but wants to bury his father first, a culturally sacred duty. Jesus responds with a startling command to *let the dead bury their own dead* (Luke 9:59-60). The hard truth is that Jesus' call is urgent. Spiritual life cannot be postponed until circumstances are convenient for us. Jesus exposes how easily we delay obedience with reasonable-sounding excuses expecting a pass. His kingdom demands immediacy, priority, and action. *Not someday, but now.*

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

In Mark 11:12-14, Jesus encounters a fig tree with leaves but no fruit and pronounces a curse on it. The act is symbolic: the tree looked healthy but produced nothing. This hard truth is that outward appearances (religious activity, moral language, spiritual posturing) mean nothing without genuine fruit. Jesus confronts empty faith with severity. He expects transformation, obedience, and visible evidence of spiritual life. This passage challenges comfortable Christianity that looks alive but bears no real fruit.

Jesus Brings a Sword

In Matthew 10:34-36, Jesus declares that He did not come to bring peace but a sword, meaning His message will divide households and disrupt relationships. This echoes the theme in Luke 12. The hard truth is that truth is inherently divisive. Jesus does not promise a life free of conflict. He promises that allegiance to Him will create tension with those who reject Him. *Peace at any cost is not the Gospel.* Faithfulness sometimes means standing firm even when it fractures our most cherished relationships.

Caution for Christians

Jesus' words “Go and sin no more” (John 8:11) is not permission to remain in a pattern of sin but a clear call to turn away from it, even if the process of transformation unfolds over time. While growth may be gradual, endorsing or ignoring ongoing sin in our own life or in the life of others contradicts the very teaching Jesus modeled and what He expects us to uphold. Many Christians today cling tightly to the comforting image of a gentle, endlessly affirming Jesus while quietly ignoring the Jesus who confronts sin, demands repentance, and speaks with piercing authority. **But a half-Jesus cannot save anyone.** When we present only the soft edges of Jesus, we rob people of the truth that transforms. **The most loving thing we can ever do for someone who is lost is to give them the whole Jesus.** The One who heals and the One who corrects, the One who forgives and the One who judges, the Lamb and the Lion. A loving Jesus opened the door to salvation through His sacrifice, but a righteous Jesus will one day judge every life with perfect justice. Holding both truths together is not harsh, it is faithful, and it is the only way to prepare people for the reality of the judgement to come.

Bible Study Questions:

1. Why do you think modern culture is more comfortable with a *gentle* Jesus than a *righteous* Jesus?

2. How does presenting only a “loving” Jesus distort the Gospel message?

3. In what ways does remembering Jesus as both *Savior* and *Judge* change how you live and witness to others?

4. How does Jesus’ statement “Do you think I came to bring peace on earth?” (Luke 12:51-53) challenge your assumptions about Him?

5. Have you ever experienced relational tension because of your faith? What did it reveal about your priorities?

6. What does Luke 12:51-53 teach you about the cost of discipleship?

7. What kind of “fruit” does Jesus expect you to produce according to the broader teachings of Mark 11:12-14?

8. How does Luke 14:26 reshape your understanding of what it means to put Jesus first?

9. Are there relationships or commitments in your life that compete with your loyalty to Jesus?

10. What does it mean to prioritize the kingdom of God over family traditions or their expectations (Mark 3:31-35)?

11. How does Luke 9:59-60 challenge the idea that discipleship can wait until life is more convenient?

12. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes urgency in following Him?

13. How does Jesus' statement, "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34-36) challenge your understanding of His mission?

14. Why is truth often divisive, even when spoken in love?

15. How can you remain faithful to Christ when your commitment creates conflict with others?