

Saying No To Jesus

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"As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. 19 But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.' 20 "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." 21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions." Matthew 19:17-22 NLT

We can say no to Jesus in a bunch of different ways:

1. We can allow the message of Jesus to be _____, creating apathy.

"You see and recognize what is right but refuse to act on it. You hear with your ears, but you don't really listen." Isaiah 42:20 NLT

2. We can _____ instead of finding purpose.

"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! 6 You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! 7 "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! 8 Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord. 9 You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses." Haggai 1:5-9 NLT

3. We can _____ as agents of transformation.

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So what is the benefit of following Jesus? What's the benefit of saying yes?

1. Following Jesus changes our _____.

*"Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers. They were Simon (his other name was Peter) and Andrew, his brother. They were putting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "Follow Me. I will make you fish for men!" ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed Him."
Matthew 4:18-20 NLT*

2. Following Jesus changes our _____.

*"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life"
John 5:24*

3. Following Jesus _____ that we understand God's love for us.

*"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."
Romans 5:8 NLT*

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Discussion Questions:

1. We're all busy and tired, right? Why do we get that way so often? What is in us that causes this? Is there any real way to be free from busyness in our life and world?
2. Does your faith in Jesus ever become rote and mechanical? Just a system a beliefs to make you feel better? What causes this? What are some ways to change it?
3. Dig deep in to your heart and life. Where are you really saying "no" to Jesus? Your marriage or relationships? Your parenting? What about your career?

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