



WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO

WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO, PART 1: WILL SMITH

He won an Oscar for his performance in King Richard, got 2 Oscar nominations for his performances in Ali and The Pursuit of Happyness, 5 Golden Globe nominations, two of which were for his wildly popular sitcom, The Fresh Prince of Bel Air, and 4 Grammys for his contribution to hip-hop. He's been in a slew of box office hits: Bad Boys, Independence Day, I am Legend, Hitch, Men in Black, Aladdin. And then there's what happened at the Oscars. So what would Jesus say to Will Smith?

BIG IDEA: Anger turns us into the worst version of ourselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of your favorite Will Smith movies?
2. What was your response when you saw the Will Smith / Chris Rock altercation at the Oscars? How would you feel if you were judged during one of your worst times?
3. Chris mentioned that Jesus would give Will a loving hug and say, "I understand how you feel and why you feel like a coward because of the abuse of your Dad towards your Mom." Why is it difficult for many people to relate to God as a Father?
4. The second thing Chris said Jesus might say to Will is that "True love—especially God's love—isn't dependent upon how good we are or how we perform. Love isn't something that is earned." [With your Bible or Bible App, read Romans 5:6-8.](#)

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. [Romans 5:6-8 \(NLT\)](#)

5. What words describe what we once were in God's eyes? How does the death of Jesus change all of this? When did God show his greatest love for us?
6. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Ephesians 2:8-9.](#)

⁸ You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. ⁹ It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about. [Ephesians 2:8-9 \(CEV\)](#)

7. How were you saved according to verse 8? What is the definition of grace based upon the end of verse 8? Do you earn a gift or receive a gift?
8. Will Smith writes in his book *Will...*

"The concepts of love and performance became fused in my mind. Love became something earned by saying and doing the right things. In my mind, great performances got you love; bad performances left you abandoned and alone. I performed to placate my father to quell his fouler moods. I performed to get the kids in my neighborhood to like me. As such, I began to see happiness for myself and my loved ones as a function of my ability to perform. If I performed well, we would all be safe and happy. If my performance faltered, we were in trouble. To me, love was a performance, so if you weren't clapping, I was failing. To succeed in love, the ones you care for must constantly applaud. Spoiler alert: This is not a way to have healthy relationships."

9. Chris said, "God's love isn't based upon what you do. God's love is based upon what He has already

- done.” Why do we find it difficult to freely receive God’s love instead of trying to earn it or be good?
- The last thing Jesus might say to Will Smith is about what happened at the Oscars. *“Will, by you letting your anger control you and lashing out at Chris Rock? You become Daddio in that moment. You’re lack of forgiveness and bitterness, if you’re not careful, will turn you into your Dad if you let it. Because anger turns us into the worst version of ourselves.”*
 - What are some terms you may have heard used to describe an “angry” person?
 - When do you find yourself becoming angry? Are there certain situations or certain people who bring out anger in you?
 - [With your Bible or Bible App, read Ephesians 4:25-27.](#)

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.
[Ephesians 4:25-27 \(NLT\)](#)

- Is getting angry a sin? Why or why not? What turns anger into sin?
- Why is it important to deal with your anger before the sun goes down?
- What happens when you don’t deal with anger? Are you giving the devil a guest room? **Leftover anger spoils life and sours relationships.**
- [With your Bible or Bible App, read James 1:18-21.](#)

He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.
[James 1:18-21 \(NLT\)](#)

- Why doesn’t human anger produce the righteousness that God desires? If it doesn’t produce this, what does our anger actually do?
- How can we keep from sinning when we are angry? When we are angry, how can we get God’s perspective of the situation? How would being quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger, change our relationships?

MOVING FORWARD

Unresolved anger leads to bitterness. What does bitterness do to us? To others? What are we to pursue? Does this mean we should always avoid conflict? When do we need to confront others with our anger? When do we need to just drop it?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Ask yourself questions like “what would it be like to be on the receiving end of my anger?” and “how would God want me to respond in this situation? Would my response bring God glory?” You may not ask these questions every time. But, attempting to ask these questions on a consistent basis gets you into the mindset of taking hold of your anger.

If you have held on to anger, what steps can you take now to begin letting go of it? Who do you need to forgive? Ask God to give you His perspective and show you where to direct your anger.

WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on the following verses: Ephesians 4:26-27, James 1:18-21, Proverbs 14:29, Ecclesiastes 7:9, Hebrews 12:14-15.

