



WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO



WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO, PART 5: PAT TILLMAN

An NFL football player who left a flourishing career and millions of dollars to enlist in the United States Army after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, Pat Tillman was an American hero who lost his life in the line of fire. So what would Jesus say to Pat, and so many other service men and women who serve our country?

BIG IDEA: The love of Jesus leads to belief, which ultimately leads to freedom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is loyalty to you in a friend?

Pat was loyal. Whether it was to his college and Pro teams he played for in Arizona, or to his country, Pat turned down a generous contract to the St. Louis Rams to stay with the Arizona Cardinals. And Pat walked away from football all together when the terrorist attacks of September 11th moved him to examine his priorities. He elected to turn down a contract with the Cardinals and to enlist in the army after the conclusion of the 2001 season. He joined up in the spring of 2002 and trained to become an Army Ranger.

2. What part about Jeff's message today really impacted you?
3. Jeff said, "One of the things Jesus might say to Pat is, 'Let me help you with your unbelief.'" Why do you think it is so difficult for people to believe in God sometimes?
4. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Mark 9:20-29.](#)

²⁰ When the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. ²¹ "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. ²² The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." ²³ "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." ²⁴ The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" ²⁵ When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil^a spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" ²⁶ Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up. ²⁸ Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer." [Mark 9:20-29 \(NLT\)](#)

5. Have you ever felt like the father in verse 24 when he says, "Help my unbelief?" How do prayer and faith relate for you during those times?
6. When do you learn more—during spiritual highs or lows?
7. [With your Bible or YouVersion, read John 3:16-17.](#)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [John 3:16-17](#)

8. To become a Christian, a person needs to know that (*fill in the blanks*):

God _____ us.

God _____ us His son.

9. To become a Christian, a person needs to (*fill in the blanks*):

We need to _____ in Jesus and what He's done FOR us.

Then we _____ the gift of eternal life.

10. *How do you think the average person would describe the requirements for getting into heaven? How would you describe those requirements in light of Jeff's sermon?*

11. Name two people in your sphere of influence who don't know that God loves them and forgives them.

12. If you had to guess, what are some of the complications that have prevented them from understanding God's simple message?

MOVING FORWARD

Becoming a Christian isn't about praying a prayer, attending church, or being committed to God. The message of Christ is simple: God loved us enough to give His son, Jesus, to die for us. All He asks of us is that we place our trust in Him and He will give us eternal life.

Using the four words from John 3:16 that were highlighted in this session, describe some of the ways you are aware of God's love for you; what it means to you that He gave His son Jesus for you; how you know that you are trusting in Jesus for eternal life. Could you explain these experiences to a non-believing friend?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How well can you explain the gospel to someone else? Is it clear and succinct? Or does it involve concepts that only an experienced Christian can understand? This week, memorize the 4 words from John 3:16 presented in the teaching.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16