

8/14/2022

Twisted – Things Jesus Didn't Say:

***“Find a padded pew & chill out.
Following Me is easy & will make you popular.”***

*[Jesus] “Then He said to the crowd,
‘If any of you wants to be My follower,
you must give up your own way,
take up your cross daily, and follow Me.’”
Luke 9:23 (NLT)*

1. You Might Need to Change Your Attitude About the World

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.” John 15:18-19 (NIV)

You vs. “The World” (a culture that DOES NOT FOLLOW GOD)

*“For **this world is not our home**; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.” Hebrews 13:14 (LB)*

*“Friends, **this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it**. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live an exemplary life in your neighborhood so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when He arrives.” 1 Peter 2:11-12 (MSG)*

*[Jesus] “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (NIV)*

*“We know that we are children of God and that **the world around us** is under the control of **the evil one**.”*

1 John 5:19 (NLT)

*“Satan, who is **the god of this world**, has **blinded the minds** of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)*

*“...Don't you realize that **friendship with the world** makes you an **enemy of God**? I say it again: If you want to be a **friend of the world**, you make yourself an **enemy of God**.” James 4:4 (NLT)*

But what about John 3:16?

*“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.” John 3:16 (NIV)*

“In some contexts, ‘the world’ is simply the place where people live.
In other contexts, especially in John, ‘the world’ is a *system opposed to God*.”
(STEP Bible commentary for the word “world”)

2. How Can We Follow Jesus and Please God in the World We Live In?

✦ INSULATION vs. ISOLATION

*[Jesus] “My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are **not of the world**, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” John 17:15-18 (NIV)*

3. Benefits of Living in a Tough World –

✦ IT TOUGHENS US UP.

*“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. **It is being tested as fire** tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” 1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)*

✦ It helps us GROW UP.

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work **so that you may be mature and complete**, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4 (NIV)*

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.” Ephesians 4:14 (NIV)

✦ It keeps us FOCUSED ON JESUS.

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)*

Keep the Conversation going...

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Think about one of your favorite bosses, teachers or coaches. What made it easy for you to follow that person?
2. What does “following Jesus” look like for **you**?
 - What’s easy about it?
 - What’s hard about it?
 - When it gets tough, what can you do to stick with it? (Hebrews 4:14-16)
3. God sent His Son Jesus for **everyone**. How can you encourage people who don’t know Jesus to consider following Him? (Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Peter 2:11-12)