



*Jesus*  
*for Grown-Ups*

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*As the centuries pass, the evidence is accumulating that, measured by His effect on history, Jesus is the most influential life ever lived on this planet.*

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Historian Kenneth Scott Latourette

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*Buddha never claimed to be God. Moses never claimed to be Jehovah. Mohammed never claimed to be Allah. Yet Jesus Christ claimed to be the true and living God.*

*Buddha simply said, "I am a teacher in search of the truth."*

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*Jesus said, "I am the Truth." Confucius said, "I never claimed to be holy." Jesus said, "Who convicts me of sin?" Mohammed said, "Unless God throws his cloak of mercy over me, I have no hope." Jesus said, "Unless you believe in me, you will die in your sins."*

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Unknown

Jesus' death, and resurrection  
punctuated the point of his  
death, and validated his  
claims about himself.

Childhood

Childhood introduced us to a version of Jesus that was quite tame, dialed back, and domesticated.

What if some of our  
ideas about Jesus are  
incomplete or incorrect?



“Come to me, all you who are  
**weary** and **burdened**, and I will  
give you **rest**.”

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Matthew 11:28 NIV

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am **gentle** and **humble** in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls.

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Matthew 11:29 NIV

For my yoke is **easy** and my  
burden is **light.**”

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Matthew 11:30 NIV

If following Jesus doesn't  
feel like rest, and if it doesn't  
feel like freedom,  
we aren't doing it right.

Law or Grace

Law values what someone does  
more than who they are, but grace  
values who they are more than  
what they have done.

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the **Sabbath**. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.

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Matthew 12:1 NIV

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*Two whole treatises in the Talmud are devoted to the details of Sabbath observance. One of these, the Shabbath, enumerates the following thirty-nine principal classes of prohibited actions: sowing, plowing, reaping, gathering into sheaves, threshing, winnowing,*

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Steven Barabas



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*cleansing, grinding, sifting, kneading, baking;  
shearing wool, washing it, beating it, dyeing it,  
spinning it, making a warp of it; making two  
cords, weaving two threads, separating two  
threads, making a knot, untying a knot, sewing  
two stitches, tearing to sew two stitches;  
catching a deer, killing,*

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Steven Barabas

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*skinning, salting it, preparing its hide, scraping off its hair, cutting it up; writing two letters, blotting out for the purpose of writing two letters, building, pulling down, extinguishing, lighting a fire, beating with a hammer, and carrying from one property to another.*

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Steven Barabas

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*Each of these chief enactments was further discussed and elaborated, so that actually there were several hundred things a conscientious, law-abiding Jew could not do on the Sabbath.*

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Steven Barabas

When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is **unlawful** on the Sabbath.”

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Matthew 12:2 NIV

He answered, “Haven’t you read what **David** did when he and his companions were hungry?”

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Matthew 12:3 NIV

He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was **not lawful** for them to do, but only for the priests.

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Matthew 12:4 NIV

**Any interpretation of scripture  
that restricts the flow of mercy  
is the wrong interpretation.**

**It is always unlawful  
to be unloving.**



And haven't you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the **Sabbath**?

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Matthew 12:5 NLT

Or haven't you read in the Law  
that the priests on Sabbath duty in  
the temple desecrate the Sabbath  
and yet are **innocent**?

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Matthew 12:5 NIV

I tell you that something **greater**  
than the temple is here.

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Matthew 12:6 NIV

If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

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Matthew 12:7 NIV

What has become an idol  
in my life that has gotten  
in the way of love?

The more we understand  
the law of God, the less it will get  
in the way of the love of God.

For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

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Matthew 12:8 NIV

Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, **not man for the Sabbath.**”

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Mark 2:27 NIV



But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might **kill Jesus**.

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Matthew 12:14 NIV

God doesn't love sacrifice.

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God loves you.

God doesn't love rules.

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God loves you.

God doesn't love laws.

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God loves you.

God loves people more than  
He loves His commandments.