

WDJS What Did Jesus Say? February 2024 Devotions

WDJS (What Did Jesus Say?) 5

Monday 1-29 You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you that you must not oppose those who want to hurt you. If people slap you on your right cheek, you must turn the left cheek to them as well. (Matthew 5.38-39) Turning the other cheek takes double strength. Not fighting back takes strength itself, but to turn the other cheek takes the strength to put yourself in harm's way.

Tuesday 1-30 When they wish to haul you to court and take your shirt, let them have your coat too. (Matthew 5.40) We can resist grabbers by grabbing as well, or we can overcome and overwhelm with more.

Wednesday 1-31 When they force you to go one mile, go with them two. (Matthew 5.41) Go the second mile for someone today.

Thursday 2-1 Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you. (Matthew 5.42) What might people think if they saw such generosity for the followers of a generous Jesus?

Friday 2-2 You have heard that it was said, 'You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you. (Matthew 5.43-44) Love wins. Who are your enemies? Love them all. Are you your own worst enemy? Love yourself. Love wins.

Saturday 2-3 Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete. (Matthew 5.48) Be whole. Wholly love with holy love.

Sunday 2-4 Worship in person or online.

WDJS (What Did Jesus Say?) 6

Monday 2-5 Be careful that you don't practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 6.1) Faith is real. Real faith is real. Fake faith is play acting and all for show. Show us who you really are, by putting your faith into action based on your beliefs.

Tuesday 2-6 But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6.3-4) Be sneaky today, make an anonymous donation. Show appreciation by leaving a note saying, "From a secret admirer!"

Wednesday 2-7 But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6.6) Today find your prayer room and discover that God is your roommate! Spend time with your roomie!

Thursday 2-8 When you pray, don't pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they'll be heard. Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. (Matthew 6.7-8) Today try praying with God with pictures. You could do it when you were 5. Draw God a picture of what you are praying about. Go ahead and put it on the refrigerator to remind you to pray throughout the day.

Friday 2-9 If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you don't forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your sins. (Matthew 6.14-15) This is a biggie! It also shows up in the Lord's Prayer. Remember we are not in the revenge or judgement business, we are in the forgiving business!

Saturday 2-10 When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Then you won't look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6.17-18) Don't show off, show up. God not only sees the what, but the why. A show off is a put off.

Sunday 2-11 Worship in person or online.

WDJS (What Did Jesus Say?) 7

Monday 2-12 Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. (Matthew 6.19) Are you a treasure hunter, or a junk collector? What "treasures" might you let go? You cannot fully embrace God and stuff.

Tuesday 2-13 Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6.20-21) What and whom do you treasure? Treasures belong safely in your heart, not in your safe.

Wednesday 2-14 No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. (Matthew 6.24) Joshua put it squarely on the people to choose whom they would serve and declared, "my family and I will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24.15b)

Thursday 2-15 Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? (Matthew 6.25) As Jesus and the first disciples walked around teaching and healing it was a different world. They only had the clothes on their backs and maybe a little food they carried. We who have closets and cupboards filled, should worry even less and help those less fortunate.

Friday 2-16 Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? (Matthew 6.26) God cares for all of creation. God cares for you. Be cared for today, and be thankful.

Saturday 2-17 Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? (Matthew 6.27) Worry does not increase life, it depletes it. The joy of living is in being thankful for what you have. The agony of living is worrying about what you do not have.

Sunday 2-18 Worship in person or online.

WDJS (What Did Jesus Say?) 8

Monday 2-19 Desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6.33) Rather than worrying about the small stuff, Jesus invites us to put our focus on God. Are you striving for what you want or for what God wants?

Tuesday 2-20 Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6.34) Focus on today and what you can do today to make all tomorrows a little better. If you live differently today you already changed tomorrow.

Wednesday 2-21 Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. You'll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. (Matthew 7.1-2) God is the ultimate judge. Don't just give people the benefit of the doubt, give people the benefit of faith!

Thursday 2-22 Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother or sister, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when there's a log in your eye? (Matthew 7.3-4) With a log in your eye there are splinter's everywhere you look. Look for obstacles within today.

Friday 2-23 You deceive yourself! First take the log out of your eye, and then you'll see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's or sister's eye. (Matthew 7.5) At times we all need a log-ectomy. As God helps you remove whatever obstruction we have, may God help us find new ways to see and respond to others in need.

Saturday 2-24 Don't give holy things to dogs, and don't throw your pearls in front of pigs. They will stomp on the pearls, then turn around and attack you. (Matthew 7.6) Well. Here is a pearl of great wisdom. What is Jesus saying to you with this one? You tell me?

Sunday 2-25 Worship in person or online.

WDJS (What Did Jesus Say?) 9

Monday 2-26 Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7.7) What are you really looking for? Where are you looking? Whom are you asking for help? The answers to these questions are life-changers.

Tuesday 2-27 For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened. (Matthew 7.8) So what have you found so far? So far, so good. Now what?

Wednesday 2-28 Who among you will give your children a stone when they ask for bread? Or give them a snake when they ask for fish? (Matthew 7.9-10) Jesus points out the obvious, that we do not give bad things to those depending on us to give them something good. Give someone your best today.

Thursday 2-29 If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. (Matthew 7.11) What is one good thing that you might ask God for today? What is the best thing you have already received from God?

Friday 3-1 Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7.12) This is called the Golden Rule. It is a good rule for us to live by. Treat people today!

Saturday 3-2 Go in through the narrow gate. The gate that leads to destruction is broad and the road wide, so many people enter through it. But the gate that leads to life is narrow and the road difficult, so few people find it. (Matthew 7.13-14) The way to the kingdom of God is more of a rocky road than an Easy Street. Climb on up rather than backsliding today.