

# RADICALS 1 – Radical Jesus

**SERIES PREMISE:** Jesus lived a RADICAL life and called us to be RADICAL followers into a RADICAL mission.

**Big QUESTION:** If Jesus lived a radical life, what KIND of life is He CALLING us to live?

When you hear the word radical, what comes to mind instinctively?  
What is the most 'radical' decision you've ever made on your faith journey?

## **What do we mean by 'radical?'**

Jesus never calls people to:

- \* CULTURAL Christianity, NOMINAL faith or OCCASIONAL religion.
- \* Half-hearted COMMITMENT or partial OBEDIENCE.

The call is to WHOLE-LIFE, ALL IN, 24/7 discipleship.

Which of these feels most common today: Cultural Christianity, nominal faith or occasional religion? Why?  
If you're honest, are there areas of your life where including the Lord is more natural and others where, in reality, He is excluded?

## **'Radical' does not mean ...**

- \* RECKLESS, RELIGIOUS or RIGID.
- \* WEIRD, EXTREME or DOGMATIC.

Which misunderstanding of Christianity have you seen most often or is most prevalent in this day and age?  
What extremes do the most damage to the cause of Christ?  
Do you think the world assumes serious faith will mean becoming strange? In what ways? Are they right?

**'Radical' does mean ...** Total, unwavering, devoted, dependent, countercultural, sacrificial & even unpopular.  
A life FULLY YIELDED to JESUS.

Which of these words stands out most to you?  
Which feels most challenging right now – and why?

## **'Radical' means ...**

- ... FAITH holds steady when fear is strongest.
- ... OBEDIENCE kicks in when comfort is calling.
- ... TRUST holds firm when outcomes are uncertain.
- ... LOVE speaks loudest when offence is easier.
- ... FORGIVENESS is chosen when revenge feels justified.
- ... WORSHIP rises when nothing else makes sense.

Which statement feels most personally relevant this week?  
Can you share a time when you chose the former over the latter (in one of those phrases), and what were the improved results?

## **How was Jesus 'radical?'**

1. Much of what He taught was UPSIDE-DOWN (Matt 5:3-12,44, Mark 8:35, 10:31).

Which teaching of Jesus feels most counter-intuitive?  
Where do you personally feel tension between kingdom values and worldly, cultural values?

2. Utter COMMITMENT to His MISSION & total SURRENDER to the Father's WILL (John 4:34, 7:6, Luke 9:51, 22:42).

What pressures most compete for our attention today, perhaps distracting us from the call of God?  
How do we successfully balance urgency of life with priority of mission?

3. Did things that were UNEXPECTED, UNPOPULAR & UNLIKELY.

Who are the 'unexpected people' Jesus might move towards today?  
Why does radical obedience often look uncomfortable, unnatural or unlikely?

#### 4. Embodied a different kind of POWER (Phil 2:5-11).

How is Jesus' definition of power different from the world's?  
Why is servant leadership so compelling, yet so difficult?

#### **What does 'radical' look like for us?**

##### 1. GOD FIRST = Radical PRIORITY (Matt 6:33, Mark 12:30)

- \* Throughout scripture, the FIRST always belongs to God (Principle of the First).
- \* Radical faith gives God your BEST, not the LEFTOVERS.
- \* It doesn't try to SQUEEZE God into an already full life; God BECOMES your life ... Everything ORDERED around Him, with Jesus at the CENTRE of it all.

How can you practically tell by observation what comes first in someone's life?  
What tends to compete with God for first place?  
What would giving God your best rather than leftovers look like this week?

##### 2. ME LAST = Radical COST (Matt 16:24-25, 20:26-28)

Paradox of the kingdom:

- \* You must LOSE your life to FIND it.
- \* Fighting for your RIGHTS is not the road to HAPPINESS.
- \* Freedom comes not from greater INDEPENDENCE, but deeper SURRENDER.

Look at each of those three big statements. In what sense are they counter-intuitive and counter-cultural?  
How does becoming 'radical' like Jesus make them make sense?

##### 3. OTHERS IN FRONT = Radical LOVE (John 13:14-15, 13:34, Gal 5:14).

- \* Salvation is not just about HEAVEN SOMEDAY, but MISSION EVERYDAY.
- \* The way UP in the kingdom is always DOWN in service.
- \* Ultimate expression of radical LIVING is radical GIVING.

What does radical love look like?  
Who gets to receive it?  
Why is it so rewarding, even though it might be hard to give?