

## RED LETTER CHALLENGE ... BEING (John 15:1-11)

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May 5, 2019

Before we are called to do anything for Jesus, we are called to spend time with Jesus. However, in our desire to follow Jesus we often jump into action and forget that our DOING flows out of our BEING with Jesus. In the coming weeks, Jesus will call us to Forgive, to Serve, to Give, and to Go. None of these are possible unless we first learn to abide in Being with Jesus.

**40 Days with Jesus: Let's \_\_\_\_\_.**

*He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."  
Luke 11:28*

**Being with Christ shapes \_\_\_\_\_;  
therefore \_\_\_\_\_.**

*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. Hebrews 12:1-2*

**Truly following Jesus means both:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ – *Be still and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10*
- \_\_\_\_\_ – *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" Luke 6:46*

**KEY: What do you believe is most \_\_\_\_\_?**

*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.  
John 15:4*

**Time spent with Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.  
Matthew 11:28*

**CHALLENGE: \_\_\_\_\_, and He will enable you to \_\_\_\_\_!**

Isaiah 40:30-31, Philippians 1:6

*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6*



Questions for individual or group reflection:

Share some things your parents taught that you wished you had paid better attention to.

Describe your childhood friends – were they good influences?

React to the statement that who you spend time with shapes who you become.

Which is easier for you – being or doing?

Read Luke 10:38-42; why was sitting with Jesus preferable?

Read John 15:1-11; what does it mean to “remain” or “abide” in Jesus?

Why are people so busy today?

Is it possible to put Jesus first, and still be productive? Why?

Are you weary? What does Jesus offer to weary people?

What spiritual discipline do you most look forward to? Do you find most difficult? (examples: reading God’s Word, meditating, prayer, fasting, solitude, Sabbath rest?)

What are you hoping will happen over the next 40 day challenge?

**Pray: Lord, thank you that you give me your words to reveal yourself to me, and to guide me in my life. Help me put your words into practice. Change me, and make me to be more like you. Help me to set aside the busyness and distraction in my life and spend time with you. Teach me to find rest in you. As you renew me, strengthen me and fill me in your presence, show me who you want me to serve and where you want me to go. But first, Jesus remind me that I am your loved and forgiven child and that you are always there for me. In Jesus’ Name. Amen!**

**Do: Commit to spending time with Jesus every day.**

**Memory Verse: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”**

– John 15:5

*This message uses materials from RedLetterChallenge.com*

RED LETTER

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CHALLENGE



Image from: <https://www.cagnz.org/gain-eternal-life.html>





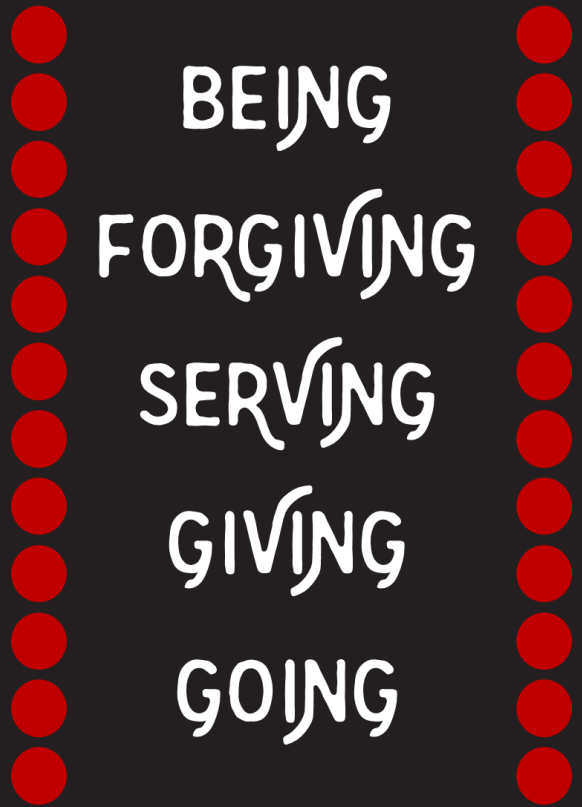
*He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”*

Luke 11:28





**40 Days with Jesus:  
Let's start and finish well.**



BEING

FORGIVING

SERVING

GIVING

GOING





**Being with Christ shapes who  
we are; therefore what we do.**

*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.*

Hebrews 12:1-2

[Image from: https://www.businessinsider.com/what-does-a-coxswain-in-rowing-do-2016-8](https://www.businessinsider.com/what-does-a-coxswain-in-rowing-do-2016-8)





<https://ibf.church/sermon-topic/obedience/>





**Truly following Jesus means both:**

- **Being**
- **Doing**

*Be still and know that I am God.*

Psalm 46:10

*“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
and do not do what I say?”*

Luke 6:46





**Truly following Jesus means both:**

- **Being**
- **Doing**

*“I can tell when I’ve done ...  
... but do I know when I’ve been?”*



**Key: What do you believe is most  
productive?**

*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

John 15:4

A serene sunset scene over a body of water. The sky is a mix of purple, pink, and blue, with scattered clouds. In the foreground, a small wooden boat with a blue hull is on the water. In the background, there's a fishing pier with several nets hanging from it. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

It's easy to confuse a lot of  
activity with a purposeful life. Do  
what lasts; let the rest fall away.

Bob Goff





<https://www.thehealthsite.com/news/watching-too-much-tv-makes-you-fat-324473/>



**Time spent with Jesus is a gift.**



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

Matthew 11:28



## CHALLENGE:

Prioritize Jesus, and He will enable  
you to finish well!

*Being confident of this, that he  
who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion until  
the day of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 1:6

*those who hope in the Lord will  
renew their strength. They will  
soar on wings like eagles; they  
will run and not grow weary, they  
will walk and not be faint*

Isaiah 40:31

*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

John 15:4