

RED LETTER CHALLENGE ... Introduction (Matthew 7:24-27)

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More than half of the words in the Gospels come from the mouth of Jesus. These are the Red Letters of Scripture. We memorize them, we quote them, we write books about them, we post them on social media. Jesus called us to do none of these things. He called us to do them! Let us open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we embark on this 40-day challenge.

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.
– Luke 2:52

THE PROBLEM:

“Many people today _____ because they feel _____.”

Let’s hold up the _____.

We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. - 2 Corinthians 5:20

The Red Letter Challenge

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. - Matthew 7:24

Following after Jesus is a life-changing _____.

So Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, “If you live by what I say, you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” - John 8:31-32

40 days in the Bible are times of _____ and _____.

Jesus replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.” – Luke 11:28

3 reminders for your journey:

1. _____ into your experience.
2. **Be patient when you** _____.
Isaiah 53:6
3. _____ to share your experience.



Questions for individual or group reflection:

- What are words that people use to describe Jesus?
- What are words that you’ve heard people say about Christians?
- Do you think people judge Jesus by how they perceive Christians?
- When have you felt the closest to God?
- What are some ways you can be with Jesus?
- How does spending time with Christ change you? Challenge you?
- When is a time when you got close, but missed the mark?
- Who do you need to forgive?
- Who do you need to apologize to and ask for forgiveness?
- How does serving make us like Jesus?
- Which is harder for you? Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving or Going?
- What are you most looking forward to 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 be more forgiving and giving. 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: Invite someone to take the Red Letter Challenge with you.

Memory Verse: “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”
– Matthew 7:24

Credit: this message uses materials from RedLetterChallenge.com

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How would you describe *Jesus*?

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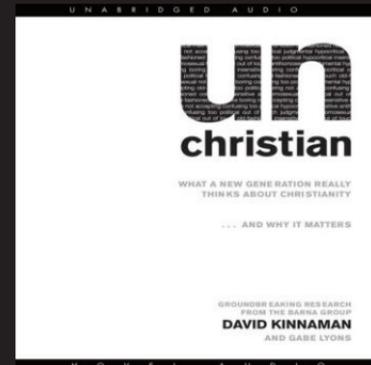
Luke 2:52



How would you describe *other Christians*?



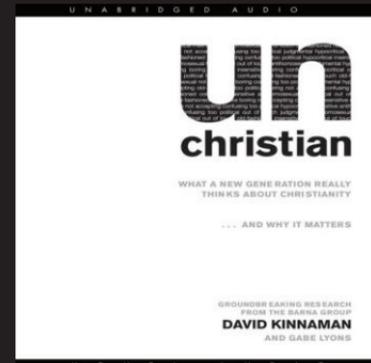
How would you describe Christians?





The Problem:

“Many people today reject Jesus because they feel rejected by Christians.”





Let's hold up the real picture of Jesus.

*We are therefore Christ's
ambassadors, as though God were
making his appeal through us*

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24



*The rain came down, the streams rose,
and the winds blew and beat against
that house; yet it did not fall, because it
had its foundation on the rock.*

Matthew 7:25



**Following after Jesus is a
life-changing opportunity.**



So Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, “If you live by what I say, you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

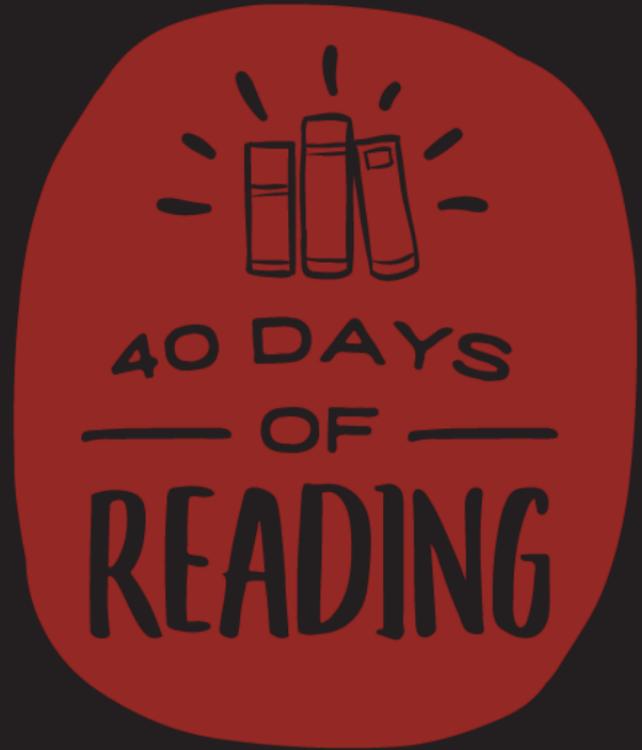
John 8:31-32

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Luke 11:28



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We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. – Isaiah 53:6



3 reminders for your journey:

1. Invite Jesus into your experience.
2. Be patient when you miss the mark.
3. Invite others to share your experience.



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