

## Would You Like a Savior? And From What?

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### *The Tough Sayings of Jesus*

It is more than a warm Christmas story of a precious baby in a manger. Understanding the destiny of why Jesus has come is critical to our spiritual formation. When he was just five weeks old, Jesus was blessed in the temple:

*The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."*

**Luke 2:33-35**

The adult Jesus would later say:

*"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'"*

**Matthew 10:34-36**

In this difficult teaching, Jesus is revealing that his message would bring division between those willing to have their hearts exposed (**Luke 2:35**) and those who are unwilling. There is a specific calling to everyone who will hear Jesus speak to live a new life in full surrender and devotion to him.

### What is Jesus asking of you and me today?

Jesus is calling us to a **surrendered life**, a **focused singularity**, and a **continual sacrifice**.

This week, make time to take the verses on the back of this handout and read their surrounding contexts—maybe even each surrounding chapter—and consider their meaning to you. What is Jesus asking of you?

**Prayerfully consider** what Jesus is saying to you today. Ask him to **reveal changes in your heart and mind** that you need to make. **Pray each verse**, perhaps in a way modelled for you in this handout, or in your own words as you contemplate how you could apply these strong and tough words from Jesus.

### A Surrendered Life:

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*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

**Matthew 7:21-23**

**PRAY:** Jesus, reveal to me where my relationship with you is just external religion. Reveal to me what it looks like to truly know you—to walk in an actual relationship, not just a religious commitment. Reveal to me the activities and disciplines I need to engage to focus on you and build my side of our relationship.

### A Focused Singularity:

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*"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

**Luke 9:62**

**PRAY:** Jesus, reveal to me where I tend to shrink back and get discouraged. Help me find the focus and the courage to put all my energy towards following you. Help me make you the most important focus of my life and help me not be distracted by lesser things.

### A Continual Sacrifice:

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*"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*

**Matthew 10:37-39**

**PRAY:** Jesus, examine the devotion of my heart. Reveal to me where I am placing the wonderful gifts you've given me—the people I love the most—in a higher position than I should. Reveal where I am placing experiences I want as more important than following you. Reveal where I am making my own comfort, success, or accomplishments my god. Help me surrender my life to you!