

Message: Three Key Characteristics

Hello and welcome to JesusFamilies.org's audio messages!

The title of this message is, "Three Key Characteristics of Following the Light or Jesus of Nazareth."

There are three things that set followers of the Light apart from other people according to the Light. But before we look at those let's consider this – that according to the Light's teachings, there are basically four kinds of people as defined by their exposure to the Light. I will list them in order of worst to best.

First, there are those who hear his words yet do not truly care about what he says evidenced by their not doing what he says, thus living fundamentally selfish lives, doing what they can to advance their own status in the world. These claim some label to associate themselves with his person, yet who do not do what he says.

Then there are those who don't hear the Light's words and who live a selfish life, doing what they can to advance their own status in the world.

Then there are those who don't hear the Light's words and yet whose primary aspect of their character is living out a life of love – selfless behavior motivated by compassion for others - due to their remaining sensitive to the conscience they have been given.

Finally, there are those who hear his words and respond in faith, evidence of which is manifest by their both caring about and doing, what he says.

Please note who are the worst group of people. It is those who have some exposure to the Light and his teachings yet who ignore him and live a selfish life not fundamentally different from those who never heard of the Light. These are the most accountable for what they know, and these will have the worst outcome at the end of their lives. Many, perhaps most of these people are sitting in what they call 'churches'.

The listener must understand that religion is irrelevant to those four kinds of people. Religion is what people believe and practice due to their god concept – which beliefs and behavior have no basis in the person or teachings of the Light of the world. In other words, what a person says they believe regarding God generally does not determine which of the four kinds of people they are. For example, there are many multitudes of people who claim "jesus Christ" is their God or Lord or whatever, but they do not do what he says, and thus their claim is empty. As the Light says, "many will say to me on that day, 'Lord did we not do all this stuff for you', and he will say, 'leave me, for I never knew you'.

There are also very many people who have not been exposed to religion or to the Light's teachings – for unfortunately the Light's teachings have been buried and hidden in religion - yet who live their life by the principles of selflessness and love due to their conscience. These people will have a positive experience after their body dies and they meet their soul's Creator.

Now, let's focus on those who do believe what Joshua himself says about himself and what he wants of humans.

There is great confusion on this simple matter due largely to people substituting other people and their writings for Joshua and his sayings. One would think this saying of the Light would be clear to people:

"If you continue in my words/teachings, then you are my student/follower/pupil; and then you will know the truth, and that truth will set you free".

Seems like a simple and clear saying. That if a person continues in Joshua's words, then they are his pupil or follower, and if they do that, they will discover a truth that will set them free from something.

Yet, due to people wanting to do just about anything other than listen to and follow the Light of the world and do what he says, the saying has been changed to this...

"If you continue in the bible or the scripture, then you are my student/follower/pupil; and then you will know the truth, and that truth will set you free".

A very clever falsehood that effectively nullifies the Freedom giver's plain words. Why? The bible is a big book and has god saying things like, "There is a time for hate...there is a time for war" or "kill that people group, including women and children". Perhaps most remarkably is that people say that there is no contradiction between a god who says, "there is a time to hate people" or "kill those people" and a God who says, "love even your enemies". So, what do people do who believe Paul that the old testament as well as his own teachings are "God's Word" instead of listening to the true Word of God, Joshua of Nazareth? Well, they can pick whatever they want to justify their beliefs and behavior while living on this earth. For example, if they would like their enemies to die, they can use many OT accounts of God ordering the killing of people or Paul's sayings in Roman's 13 to justify dropping bombs on them. Of course they have to ignore Joshua to do that, but that is normal for those who have not truly placed their faith in him and who are thus not willing to consider losing their life in this world as he says.

Which brings us to the topic of our article.

There are three things that mark a person who is actually, truly following the Light. Let's take a look at those three things. They are...

- Caring about what is true and right
- Coming out of the world
- Learning what God's love is and doing it.

First, they care about what is true and right. Now, most everyone will react to that saying, "oh, I care about what is true and right". However, what is implied in "caring" is that we care enough to speak about it, try and do something about it, and thus **this will come to pass in our lives:** "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me."

For those who truly love Jesus of Nazareth, they will be insulted, treated badly, have false and slanderous and harmful things said about them, as he says, "because of Me".

So, dear listener, I have to ask, how many people have insulted you, treated you badly, said false things about you because of your repeating Jesus' sayings, NOT because of some other thing like politics, religion, rudeness, money or other such thing? If you care about that which is true – that Joshua is the truth that matters for all humanity – then if you speak his truths and thus promote his person, you will experience what he says you will experience...rejection, hatred, and persecution. This is the measure of faithfulness to the follower of the one who calls himself the truth.

Secondarily, if you even truly care about that which is right, you will also find yourself largely isolated and considered something other than 'a good, normal American citizen'.

Joshua says blessed are those who hunger and thirst for that which is right. To hunger and thirst for something does NOT amount to joining the soup kitchen as it fits into your schedule, or throwing some money at some problem. Rather, it means you will regularly speak about that which is not right even though you will lose friends for doing so, and that you will do something about it. Woe to you when all people speak well of you for so they did of those who said false things regarding my Father. For example, adoption in the U.S. is truly nothing more or nothing less than selling children for profit. If you cannot see that, then you are morally blind. It is evil and about as anti-compassion and anti-love as one can get. Do you recognize that? If you don't recognize that, then what does that say about your 'moral compass'? If you do, do you say anything about that? If not, why not, and how does that amount to hungering and thirsting for that which is right?

I could pick dozens of things that are fundamentally wrong – that work against people caring for and loving one another. Some examples would be the way the religious system works – ignoring Joshua in favor of loving the world, and thus no true love binding people together.

The way the health care system works – physicians who say very simply, "I will not help your child unless I receive all this money". That is not evil?

The way the educational system works – not only ignore the Light of the world, but train the young people to reject even his moral teachings on what is good and right.

The way the government works – I'll say and do anything I have to to keep the material security I get with this position, or the power I get to wield from this position.

And it goes on and on...

Yet most people simply shrug and says, "who cares, I get what I want if I am willing to play the game and pay the piper". It is only when someone does not get what they want that they might consider that the system that supports or supplies what they want is fundamentally wrong. They might write a letter or complain to others, but they typically will not diligently and consistently try to change it. They just can't see how they can change it and do not see any other alternatives. This is because they belong to, participate in, implicitly endorse, and were raised in those systems – which are really groups of people who make up and control those systems. It is popular to 'blame the system' and ignore the fact that 'the system' is people – humans who choose what they do freely. The people are the system, and they all cooperate in sustaining and promoting the system, which system runs on principles that are evil.

Which brings us to the next point.

The Light says the following:

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because **they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

Most bible or christian people, when asked what Jesus is talking about regarding what he calls “the world” are clueless. This is simply because they have never come out of the world – they are still very much a part of it, as is their religion. Before you can identify and understand something is wrong, you first must come apart from existing in it to begin with. Since we don’t like to judge ourselves, and we need to deceive ourselves in order not to condemn ourselves – the Christians come up with stuff like, “the world is all the evil people on the earth”. They jump right to moral relativism to avoid Joshua’s truth – that “the world” is not ‘all the bad people’ whoever, they are – rather and simply, it is people like them who ignore Jesus in the normal course of their day and how they live their lives.

The world is people who don’t know Jesus’ teachings are don’t really care to...it is the people who do not care to live by the Light’s teachings. This includes many Christians and most bibilians many of whom are decent moral, religious people. Again, this is not a condemnation of good, decent moral people. Rather, it is rather a stated fact that the world is people who ignore Jesus and don’t take seriously knowing or living out his teachings. What does it mean to “ignore” Jesus? It means to not have a conscious awareness of his person or his teachings, and thus not regularly repeat his teachings to anyone in a living context. It means not living according to his teachings and not having the three primary characteristics identified in this message.

The Light of the world’s teachings are quite plain on this important matter regarding the world, but his teachings about the world are about as popular as this essential saying of the Light:

“Those who seek to keep their life will lose it; while those who seek to lose their life for my sake shall find Life”.

Can the listener see how the two sayings fit perfectly together? Only if you truly hunger and thirst for that which is true and right will we even consider losing our life in this world. And only if you have allowed yourself to be chosen out of the world will you be able to see what that means. For those who don’t know what it means to be chosen out of the world, you ought to use reason to conclude that you are not chosen out of the world and wonder about the implication for that upon your spiritual life.

Let’s repeat this really critical key concept – that followers of the Light are no longer part of the world. There are two primary aspects to this. There is the personal relational aspect, and then there is how much a person accepts the way the world does things.

The first aspect is personal relationships. First and foremost, this means that we have no significant relationships with those who do not also follow the Light as he defines that. For natural and legal family members, we will have witnessed to them, and consistently repeated the Light’s concepts and teachings to them and have thus been rejected by them. Again, this is not some religious evangelism exercise so that they will accept some doctrine set or some sect I have chosen to associate with. Nor is it some exercise where my agnostic family members will accept my new religion. Rather, it is a true rejection where we have been forsaken by them due to our persistent insistence that the Light really is the only sure Way Home. Since we loved them, we wanted to

make sure they have the new Hope we have, but they refused to listen to the Light and said to us in one form or another, 'get away from me and don't come back until you give up this Jesus junk'.

With non-family friends, it will mean they will no longer want to be our friend since we insist that Jesus is real and that what he says is really important...in fact so important we should try our best to order our lives by his teachings and help others do the same.

We will find ourselves alone for some time in this world since the world loves the darkness rather than the Light, and we endeavor to follow the Light and in his absence we are the light of the world. The Light says the way will be difficult, and a primary aspect of the difficult way is rejection by others, especially those we love and care about.

If you dear listener, have not been rejected by others you care about due to your faith in the Light, then you ought to question the 'jesus' you are saying you believe in. If you put your 'jesus' into a box that does not offend those who won't believe him, then your 'jesus' is one of your own making. Please consider the ramifications of that.

Secondarily, it means we will not participate in the world in a way that causes us to support or endorse something that is wrong according to the Light. For example, a disciple will no longer support the U.S. military in any way since its core purpose is to defeat the enemy by any means, not love them. Or a pupil of the Light will not participate in the religious or political or educational systems since they ignore the Light and thereby pronounce his as irrelevant, as well as promote and teach things contrary to his Way.

The beautiful truth is that this Person whom we have trusted in is a King...in fact, he is the Creator's appointed King, and he is good and righteous and compassionate and true and many other things. Furthermore, he is capable of ruling his people, meaning we have no other leaders...no other true authorities over our lives. Having the Light as our King means if we do things his way, we do not need to be part of the dark world which ignores him and says his ways are stupid.

Which brings us to our last point.

That as disciples of the Light, we are learning to love. It doesn't mean we don't know what love is, for our Father has taught us that and our Master has defined that for us in his teachings. Rather, it means we are getting better at practicing love as time passes. This is extremely important for the following reason.

If we cannot love our friends and brothers and sisters, then how can we expect to be able to love even those who consider themselves our enemies?

The truth is that the coming apart from the world that all true disciples experience is a difficult process that causes pain and conflict. When a person has the faith in, and love for, the Light that is required to separate from the people who reject us for that faith, it would be extremely beneficial for us if we have others to love and be loved by in order to live out the Light's primary command for his followers:

"A new command I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you; for this is how the people around you will know you are my follower if you care for one another". Let's repeat this all important command of the Light of the world, for without it, we who are his followers are wasting our time. Elsewhere, he calls this new command, "my commandment" singular, emphasizing its primary importance.

Without this love or agape for each other, we have no witness to the sad, lost people of the world who have no hope and who love the darkness that will swallow them someday.

The question must be asked, how is the “new command” being fulfilled in your life, dear listener? How are you caring for other disciples? How is your sharing your life with other true brothers and sisters of faith manifesting itself? How does that selfless compassion we have for them work itself out in practice and daily life?

Remember characteristic 1? Caring about what is true and right? If we do this, we will find ourselves rejected by those who reject the one who says he is the truth, and who don't hunger and thirst for that which is right. The difficult way will manifest itself in our lives and we will find ourselves alone for identifying the darkness of the world and how the people of the earth accept that which is wrong as normal.

Remember characteristic 2? Characteristic 1 will naturally lead to characteristic 2. We will hear the Light's voice, and we will be chosen out of the world in order to do what the Light says. We will proclaim the darkness of the world and the superiority of the kingdom of the Light. For this, we will be hated and rejected and persecuted. For saying the religious system is of the darkness. For saying the educational system is of the darkness. For saying the political system is of the darkness. For saying all these systems are made up of people who choose to reject the Light, is what makes those systems evil and dark. For these things, we will be both called out – that is why we are speaking the truth – and rejected by the people.

This brings us to characteristic 3. We who follow the Light will love one another, and that agape love will mean we will live together...we will actually and truly share our lives...we will join together to follow the Light together and care for one another and do our Father's work together. We will not deceive ourselves and play the world's game of 'caring' only when some material benefit is gained. We will be a very different people with a very clear purpose and a very different way of life.

You can try and fit the truth's of Joshua spoken in this message into the religious system, but to do so is to be badly deceived. I hope the listener is asking and seeking and knocking and thus has ears to hear the one who calls himself the truth. If you do, then you will see whether or not you have the three characteristics identified in the Light's teachings in this message. You will not deceive yourself – rather you will repent if needed, and do, and live out, what the Light of the world clearly paints as his followers life.

May we be filled with his hunger and thirst for that what is right according to him who is the truth. And may that passion lead to both our rejection by the world, and our reception by other pupils of the Light; and finally, may the love of our Master be evident so that we might fulfill his commandment.

Peace to you.