

When The Truth Is Inconvenient

The Rest of The Story

John 11:45-12:11

Two Responses

1. Many **BELIEVED**.
John 11:45 & 12:11/ John 10:25/ John 10:37-38
2. Many **REFUSED** to **BELIEVE**.
John 11:47-48 & John 12:10-11

How Can This Be?

SPIRITUALLY

1. Sometimes we **FEAR** the truth.
2. Sometimes we simply don't want to **CHANGE**.
3. Sometimes we love the **DARKNESS**.
John 3:20-21

PSYCHOLOGICALLY

1. **CONFIRMATION** Bias
2. **PEER** Pressure
3. **IDENTITY** Protection

How Should We Respond to Those Who Don't Respond?

1. With **HOPE** and **PATIENCE**.
2. **MOVE ON** to those who are **OPEN**.
John 11:54/ Matthew 10:14/ 1 Peter 3:15
3. Pray for an **OPEN HEART**. There is no magic **BULLET**.
Matthew 13:1-23/ Romans 10:1

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Two Responses

1. Many _____.
John 11:45 & 12:11/ John 10:25/ John 10:37-38
2. Many _____ to _____.
John 11:47-48 & John 12:10-11

How Can This Be?

SPIRITUALLY

1. Sometimes we _____ the truth.
2. Sometimes we simply don't want to _____.
3. Sometimes we love the _____.
John 3:20-21

PSYCHOLOGICALLY

1. _____ Bias
2. _____ Pressure
3. _____ Protection

How Should We Respond to Those Who Don't Respond?

1. With _____ and _____.
2. _____ to those who are _____.
John 11:54/ Matthew 10:14/ 1 Peter 3:15
3. Pray for an _____. There is no magic _____.
Matthew 13:1-23/ Romans 10:1

Food for Thought for the Week of July 2, 2023

In this weekend's message, we saw how the chief priests and the Pharisees, even after having witnessed Jesus' bringing Lazarus from death to life, nonetheless refused to believe He was God's son. It can be easy for many of us to wonder how this can be— the truth had been displayed right before their very eyes!

But we can fall into the same trap. The words of Jesus in the Bible are clear. Yet, we seem to be able to justify our way out of doing what He says for the spiritual and psychological reasons Larry mentioned. Consider the following commands of Scripture. As you read through them, place a mark next to those you find to be the most inconvenient commands God has given to us.

- **Love:** John 13:34

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

- **Forgive:** Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- **Don't Gossip:** James 4:11

¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

- **Submit:** Ephesians 5:21-27

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

- **Be Humble:** Jeremiah 9:23-24

²³ This is what the LORD says:

*"Let not the wise boast of their wisdom
or the strong boast of their strength
or the rich boast of their riches,*

*²⁴ but let the one who boasts boast about this:
that they have the understanding to know me,
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,"
declares the LORD.*

- **Talk Nicely:** Ephesians 5:4

⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

- **Be Pure:** 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before.

- **Don't Grumble:** Philippians 2:14-16

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

- **Don't Lie:** Colossians 3:9-10

⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Is there a command you struggle with that isn't listed?

Jesus told Peter, "If you love me, you will keep my commands." James 4:17 says, "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." As you reflect on the most inconvenient command God has given you, what is one simple step you can take today to begin to change? No more justification or excuses— why it's not the right time, how you don't have the right tools, etc. Instead, just begin with one simple step of obedience today. What is that step for you?