



What is a Christian? Part 8

Opening Game/Thought

Dad Joke Duel - We all have heard them, and WE ALL simultaneous love and groan at them... the Dad Joke. With your family, have a duel to see who can resist the magic of the dad joke the longest. Rules:

- 1) Only two go at a time
- 2) Lock eyes and keep a serious face
- 3) Take turns delivering a dad joke to the other person without them seeing it, using: <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/06/us/dad-joke-generator-trnd/>
- 4) Jokes have to be delivered without breaking the serious face or eye contact, as well as received without breaking the serious face or eye contact.
- 5) First person to crack from the serious face/eye contact at all three times loses (raise or lower this number if needed)!
- 6) Feel free to set this up tournament style or let each person have a chance against the other

Dad Jokes are one of those parts of the universe that turn its rules upside-down. We KNOW the jokes aren't funny, but we can't help but laugh and enjoy them. There are so many aspects of the world that defy logic but bring joy to the world. We're going to see some of these upside-down truths in this devo.

Check it! (Scan this QR code)



Scripture:

Take a deep breath in and breathe out. Bring your mind and body to an open space as you read the scripture

Matthew 5:1-12 (Laughing Bird)

Jesus found himself increasingly surrounded by crowds of people, so one day he headed off up the mountain. He sat down up there and his committed followers gathered around to hear what he had to say. This is what he taught them:

"Those who depend entirely on God for their welfare have got it made, because they are already at home in the culture of heaven.

"Those who are stricken with grief have got it made, because they will receive the ultimate comfort.

"Those who allow others to have first claim on everything have got it made, because the whole world will be given to them.

"Those who hunger and thirst to see the world put right have got it made, because they will be richly satisfied.

"Those who readily treat others better than they deserve have got it made, because they will be treated with extravagant mercy.

"Those whose hearts are unpolluted have got it made, because they will see God.

"Those who forge peace and reconciliation in places of hostility have got it made, because they will be known as God's own children.

"Those who are attacked and abused for sticking to what is right have got it made, because they are already at home in the culture of heaven.

"When people turn on you and do all they can to make your life a misery; when they make false allegations about you and drag your name through the mud, all because of your association with me, you have really got it made!

"Kick up your heels and party, because heaven is coming and you will be rewarded beyond your wildest dreams! You are in great company, because they were just as vicious to God's faithful messengers in the past."

Group Questions

- If you heard these "Those who..." statements for the first time, not knowing the person who said them, which do you think would be the strangest to you? And why?
- Which of the "Those who..." statements stand out to you the most, and who in your life do you feel embodies that truth the best?
- Does God have these values match up with how you viewed God growing up? Why do you think there is a disparity, if there is one?

Prayer

God, our desire is to be people of your blessing. But people who receive your benefits aren't always something we can be. Help us to realize what it means to be someone who suffers and someone who does works of justice for you. Amen

Thought

The list in Matthew 5 is shocking to us, especially the first few. Blessed are the: poor, criers, submissive, the persecuted. And many of us do and know plenty that fit into this category. The others can equally be shocking: long for justice, make peace, oppressed for justice. So we are either suppose to be the people being put down, or the people lifting others up. Which are you? Are we supposed to be both? Can we be both?

Closing Prayer (write yourself)
