

# JESUS SAYS, “STAY CLOSE TO ME”

Jesus, our Lord, said to his disciples, “It may be hard to be a Christian. You must always do what is right and good. You must stay close to me. If you do this, I will introduce you to my Father in heaven.

“You must love me more than anyone else. You must love me more than your mother and father. Just as I had a hard time when I carried my cross, so you must be ready for whatever hard times come your way. You must take up your cross, whatever it is.”

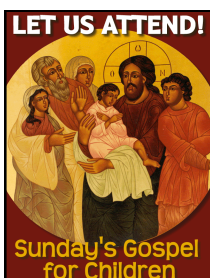
“If you are rich here, it is not so important to God. If you are poor here, it is not so important to God. What is most important is that you stay close to me. I will be with you always. No matter what happens, stay close to me.”

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus said that it might be hard to be a Christian. We must do what is right and good. What is one thing you do that is good?
2. Jesus said we should stay close to Him. How do we do this?
3. If we are right and good, and stay close to Jesus, who will we meet in heaven?
4. Jesus said that if we are rich here on earth, it is not so important. He said if we are poor that is not so important. What IS important ?
5. What is one way we stay close to Jesus?
6. Look at the icon above. This shows a time when Jesus told his disciples to let the children come to him. He blessed them. You can draw a picture of yourself just like you were there, in front of Jesus.
7. Can you pretend you were there? Do you feel special? What would you say to Jesus?
8. Never forget, Jesus is with us always.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)



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# JESUS SAYS, “STAY CLOSE TO ME”

**One day** our Lord Jesus Christ was talking to His disciples. He said, “Anyone who is not embarrassed about Me around other people, I will remember before my Father in Heaven. Whoever acts like they don’t know Me, I will not remember before My Father.

“If someone loves their parents or children more than Me, they are not worthy of Me. Taking up the Cross is hard to do, but it is the right thing to do. Whoever does not do the right thing because it is hard is not worthy of me, either.”

Peter spoke up then, “Lord, we left behind everything so that we could follow You. What will happen to us?”

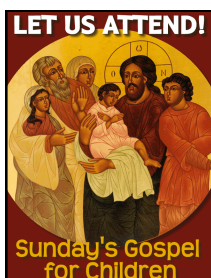
Jesus told them, “In the new world, I will sit on a glorious throne. You who followed me will also sit on a throne, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Anyone who has left behind people or things to follow me will be blessed with much more, and get to live forever with God!”



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who will Jesus remember before God? Who will He not remember?
2. What does Jesus say is hard to do? Why do you think it is the right thing to do?
3. Did you ever do something even though it was hard, because it was the right thing to do? What did you do?
4. What did Peter say he and the other disciples had left behind? Why did they leave it?
5. What did Jesus say will happen to those who leave everything to follow Him?
6. Ask your parents or godparents to tell about a time when they followed God even though it was hard.



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Pre-12

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# WHOEVER DOES NOT TAKE UP HIS CROSS...

The Lord said to His disciples, “Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundred-fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

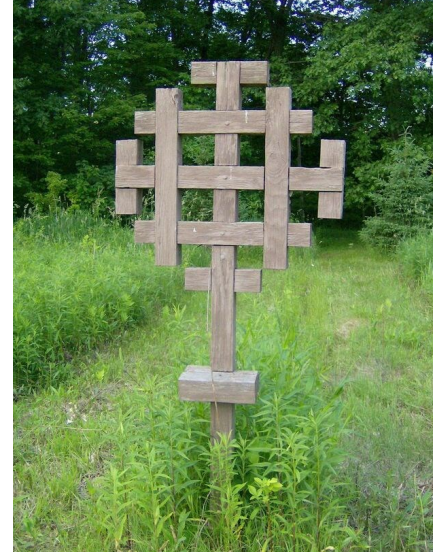
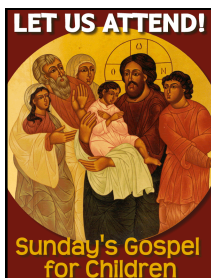


Image courtesy of cardsthroughmylens.com

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who does Jesus say He will acknowledge before His Father in Heaven? Who will He deny?
2. Who does He say is not worthy of Him?
3. What do you think He means when He talks about “taking up his cross” and following Him?
4. What did Jesus tell Peter that he and the other disciples will do in the new world?
5. Jesus said that everyone who leaves behind things or people who are important to them will inherit what?
6. Have you ever had the opportunity to do something differently from your friends because of your faith? What was it? How did you do? Did you acknowledge Jesus and/or leave things behind or did you deny Him and/or make the thing more important to you than Christ?



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# WHOEVER DOES NOT TAKE UP HIS CROSS...

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Peter

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Narrator: Then Peter said in reply,

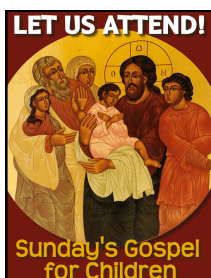
Peter: Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?

Narrator: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundred-fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.



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# WILL YOU BE DENIED?

**The Lord said to His disciples,** “Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has

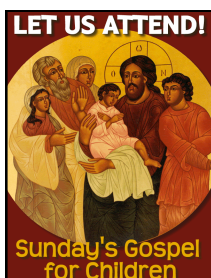
left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundred-fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”



Image courtesy of freeimages.com

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does it mean to acknowledge Christ?
2. Why is that hard to do sometimes?
3. How do we acknowledge Christ at church?
4. How do your parents or godparents acknowledge Christ at work?
5. How does your family acknowledge Christ at home?
6. What can you do this week to acknowledge Christ?



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# DO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS?

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Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or

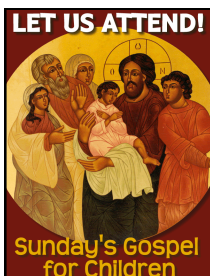


Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundred-fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Is loving your family a bad thing?
2. What do we do to love our families?
3. How might someone love their family more than Jesus?
4. Why would Jesus say this is a problem?
5. What do you think about Jesus saying this?
6. Is there anything you sometimes choose over Jesus?
7. What can you do to practice loving Jesus?



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