

### 8.3: What's so Radical about Jesus? Revision guide.

**Radical Definition:** SUPPORTING CHANGE (usually used when describing a political or social change)

**Revolutionary Definition:** Involved in or causing dramatic change.

**Hypocrisy:** Essentially hypocrisy means that we say one thing but do another.

**Tradition:** is how something has always been done.

**Agape love** is self-giving love and it is the kind of love Jesus was talking about. It gives without expecting anything in return. It puts the other person first.

**Secular:** not connected with religious or spiritual matters

**Humanism:** set of beliefs that value human life and the individual. It rejects religion and argues you don't need God to be valuable or a good person.

**Justice:** Fairness or giving people respect

<u>Image of Jesus</u>	<u>What it tells us</u>	<u>When it might be used</u>
The Good Shepherd	Jesus guides people in their lives, that he is a good example to follow and that he looks after his followers.	When talking about Jesus' message and using Jesus' life to guide people. The shepherd guides his sheep and protects and nurtures them.
The Historical Jesus	Jesus was a middle eastern man and so would have dark hair and olive coloured skin.	Used when discussing the historical, political Jesus that exists in historical evidence. A non-Christian may prefer this image.
The Black Jesus	Tells us that it does not matter what Jesus looked like, Jesus' words and deeds are what is important and were for every-one of every race.	This may be used by non-white Christians in order to connect with Jesus or may be used as a statement about equality i.e. Jesus' message was for everyone.
The Crucified Jesus	Jesus was crucified (killed) for his beliefs and for wanting to see change in the world.	Used by Christians to show that Jesus sacrificed his life for them so that they could have eternal life with God. Shows that revolutionary's are prepared to die for their beliefs.

What sort of Radical do Christians believe Jesus was: loving, merciful, caring, non-violent, fair, self-sacrificing and just

He helped people who were normally ignored this was radical: **"He ate with tax collectors and sinners saying "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."** Mark 2: 15-17



His radical teachings include:

Matthew 5:44 **"<sup>44</sup>But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you,"** This was radical because normally you would get revenge.

Matthew 5:9: **"<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God"**. This was radical because Jesus was telling his followers not to fight back.

Luke 4:18-19 **"<sup>18</sup>....."Because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted,"** This was radical because he was saying the poor are important and need looking after.

**Jesus hated hypocrisy. He taught that if you say you love God then your actions should reflect your beliefs. This means that ...** if Jesus says help the poor, you give money or time to the poor. ... if Jesus says 'love your neighbour' you love every last one!

Jesus taught not to judge others and to have a look at yourself before criticising others. The story of the women caught in adultery shows this teaching.

**Luke 6: 42 "How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite,"**

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**Matthew 25:31-46 The Sheep and the Goats** *35 for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'* 37..... *'truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* **Jesus taught that if a person really was his follower then they would help others in need, when they do then it is like they are doing it for God.** It teaches different ways to help others in need e.g. give food, drink, look after strangers, make sure someone has the clothes they need, to visit and look after the sick and to visit those in prison. **Jesus also used this story to teach that they will go to heaven if they do this (sheep to heaven – goats (people who ignored others in need – went to hell)).**

**Historical Jesus:** He was born sometime just before 4BCE. Grew up in Nazareth in Galilee and was trained by his father to be a Carpenter. He was Jewish. He was baptised by John and then started his public preaching with a radical message. He was a healer, teacher and Prophet. He performed many miracles. He was killed on the cross by the Romans who were occupying the 'Holy Land'. Jews at the time of Jesus were living in the 'holy land'; modern day Israel/ Palestine. Jews believed this land was given by God – that is was special and sacred. Many Jews did not like the idea that they were ruled by 'ungodly' people who used the sacred land for making money.

Why would a secular person value Jesus: A secular person and humanist may value Jesus' teachings. They think that he explains some great advice on how to live but he is not God and they do not agree with religion.

A secular person could learn from Jesus' teachings:

1. To spend time with 'different' people as we can learn a lot from people who are different to us.
2. Violence isn't the answer – it doesn't always work and often just brings more violence.
3. Do all you can but then stop worrying as you can't change anything by doing so.
4. Don't be self-centred – live a life for others too.
5. Everyone is valuable and important – help others in need.

**Why might a humanist follow Jesus' teachings:** Many humanist accept that SOME of the teachings of Jesus can help us – they ignore the religious teachings. Jesus' teachings can **give advice and guidance on how to live and behave well.** Humanists would say that any teachings or stories that **can inspire people to live better lives and improve the world are a good thing** – but that there is NO GOD so you cannot rely on a God to help us, we have to help ourselves. Values that they can learn: E.g. **courage, fairness, justice, tolerance and concern for others.** Although Humanist do not actively follow Jesus' teachings, His teachings which are not about God or the after-life work well within the humanist moral framework.

**What do Christians believe about Jesus that non-religious people do not?** Christians believe that Jesus was **actually God in human form**; that he came to Earth and lived amongst us. This is important for Christians as it makes Jesus' message even more important. They don't just follow Jesus' teachings because he was a nice person; they believe that whatever Jesus said is actually the word of God; God is directly telling us how we should behave. They believe that Jesus could **perform miracles**. A miracle is something that happens that goes against the laws of nature. Only God has the power to change nature and so Jesus must be God in human form. They also believe that Jesus **died on the cross to help us come closer to God**. Human's sin (do bad things) and we move further and further away from God. God wants us close and so he died and in his death took all our sins with him.