

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

Serving Churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma

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Number 9

“Nobody Tells Me What to Do”

You really shouldn't eat that, it's bad for you.

Thanks, I believe I'll have two.

Turn right, turn left, go straight.

If I wanted directions, I'd buy a map.

Work harder if you want to get ahead.

Just listening to you say that makes me want to take a nap.

Is there something wired into most of us that instantly shuts our ears to the advice of others? Did Grandpa Adam and Grandma Eve send us down this path when they chose the forbidden fruit over the following the Father? Are we so independent in our thinking, so defiant in our attitude, so wrapped up in entitlement, it's difficult to accept anyone telling us what to do?

Do we perceive the Word of God in a similar light? The big book of what we can and cannot do. The Creators notebook of no-no's given to us merely to quench the fun from our lives. Can I add this to my reasons for not reading the Bible?

Because I don't want to hear the truth...

...about what to say, how to act, what to think?

...about what is right and wrong?

...about life and death?

...about myself?

No one enjoys being told what to do, or being told not to do what they want. Oh, we may go around pseudo-seeking the wisdom

of others, asking them what they think we should do. But, many times we are not looking for advice, but searching for affirmation of what we wanted to do in the first place.

This idea is fleshed out in the form of King Rehoboam. (No, he didn't invent a cough syrup, although his name does seem to sound strangely familiar when perusing the medical aisle.)

As the first born son of Solomon, Rehoboam had watched the wise man's reign over the twelve tribes throughout his childhood, knowing someday he would be king. He had witnessed his father's heavy handed reign over the kingdom during those years he was trying to build an eternal name for himself.

It had been hard on the Israelites to follow Solomon during his ecclesiastical search for the meaning of life. He was building the greatest kingdom on earth, and it took a lot of free labor and a lot of high taxes to do it. Lots of work and improvements were being done, at the great cost of the king's popularity among his people.

So, when Rehoboam took over, and it was time for him to decide what kind of king he was going to be, he turned to the trusted advisors of his father (1 Kings 12:1-11). The people wanted to know what changes might be made in the kingdom, and the new king needed to develop his answer.

The men of the old regime told him, "Tell the people you are here to be their servant, then they will serve you forever."

Probably good counsel, but not exactly what Rehoboam wanted to hear. So, he dismissed these men and went around asking his friends what he should do.

Their advice is interesting. "Tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'" Youch, those are some strong words!!! I can't even imagine Rehoboam's ring size if it's as big as his father's waist. And scourging people with scorpions?

Present yourself as strong. Don't give an inch. Flex your muscles and let 'em know who is in charge. That's the real message here.

And Rehoboam embraced their advice for one simple reason. I'm the king, and nobody tells me what to do. That's the advice he had been looking to hear, and he finally heard it.

I can't help but think Rehoboam had a problem with the concept of the "servant leader." His dad's advisors understood the idea that people like to follow someone whose heart is more concerned for their followers than themselves. But these younger friends missed that.

It takes a great deal of humility to be a leader that listens and cares about those they are leading. It takes a willingness to say we don't know all things, and we are willing to hear the wisdom of others. It takes a lot of humility to allow God's Word to direct us, even when it goes against what we "know" is right.

I also think Rehoboam had somehow come to the fear that gentleness with his people would cause him to lose something. Something he thought he had a birthright to, something he thought was his because of who he was.

As the king, he felt kindness might be a sign of weakness, and it might cost him his power, his prestige, his presence.

By giving away my authority, I am giving away who I am.

("Nobody Tells Me..." cont on pg 8)

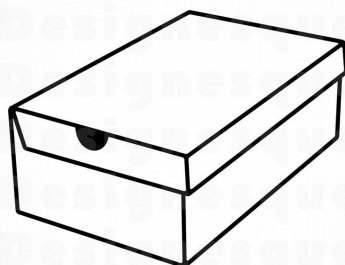
“Jesus clearly demonstrates if we are going to discover God's will, many times we will need to avoid, sometimes even contradict, the advice of those in opposition to God's will.”

Bring Joy and the Gospel Through Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Gifts

By Angela Rice,
Coordinator of Short-term Missions

Christmas is a season of giving, and this year you have the opportunity to make an eternal impact in the life of a child in El Salvador through Everlasting Smiles Shoebox Gifts.

Each shoebox is more than just a Christmas present...it's a door to share the Gospel, plant churches, and build



connections through the local church.

It's not too late to get involved! For just \$20, we will pack a shoebox for you. That includes the box, shipping, Christmas gift items, and most importantly, a Bible.

Each gift will be placed directly into the hands of a child, reminding them not only that they are loved, but that Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

The deadline to turn in shoeboxes has been extended to October 10, giving you more time to participate in this life-changing ministry.

Whether you pack a box yourself or sponsor one through a donation, your involvement will help spread joy and hope to children who may be hearing the Gospel for the very first time.

Don't miss this opportunity to share Christ's love in a tangible way. To learn more or to give, visit bmaglobal.org/christmas-shoeboxes.

Together, we can bring everlasting smiles this Christmas!



Gospel Singing Services Sunray Baptist Church in September



Sunday, September 7, 10:30am

The Gastineaus, an all-girl, all-native live southern gospel band with original songwriting from Stonewall, OK, will be singing at our Grandparents Day morning worship service. A potluck lunch will follow.

Saturday, September 13, at 6:00pm

We will be hosting our annual SummerSing with Sound Street and Lauren Talley. Admission is free.

A love offering will be taken at both events to help with expenses.

Sunray is located at 2223 North 9th Street in Purcell.

For more information call (405) 984-3229

The OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

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"I Was Just Thinkin' "

By Narita Roady

"Dust Bunny Sins"

We once had a cousin that fell victim to every salesman that came to his door. He joked, "Yea, can't you see the notches out on the fence railing? It lets the other salesmen know I'll buy anything!"

There was another such man with the same problem. Salesmen loved him! Any new gadget to doodad that came out he was sure to have one. His wife had tried to change him but to no avail.

One day he came in with yet another one of his bizarre acquisitions. This one topped all the rest. His skeptical wife listened as he shared about his amazing new "toy" that was actually a lie detector.

That afternoon, their 11 year old son arrived home two hours late. He winked at his wife and said, "Let's test the robot." She rolled her eyes and sat down at the table with him, Tommy, and the robot.

"Son," began his dad, "why are you so late and where have you been. You know you are supposed to come home as soon as school is out?"

"Well", began the boy, fidgeting nervously, "I went to the library with some of my friends. I was working on a special assignment for school."

To the shock of them all, the robot came to life, walked around the table, and slapped the boy up beside the head. The blow was so hard he was knocked out of the chair and to the floor.

The stunned father pulled himself together and said, "Now tell us the truth, where did you REALLY go after school. Remember now this robot is a lie detector."

Crawling back into his chair and rubbing the side of his face he said, "Okay, okay, I went to a friend's house and we watched a movie."

That's nice," said his Mom, "what did you watch, Honey?"

With his biggest smile he replied, "The Ten Commandments, Mother!"

Once again the robot whirled around, sped to the boy, and gave him a solid whack that landed him on the floor again.

As tears welled up in his eyes he got back into his chair and in a shaky voice answered, "Please forgive me for lying. We watched an R rated movie I knew I wasn't supposed to."

"I am so ashamed, Son, scolded his dad," Why when I was young like you, I NEVER told my parents a lie!"

Immediately the robot spun around, whizzed to the father and soundly smacked him across the face. By this time the mother was laughing so hard she was crying.

Between gasping breaths, she choked out, "I saw that one coming, you sure asked for it. *gasp* How can you be upset with him? *gasp* He's your son!"

No sooner was the last word out of her mouth than the robot swung around and immediately slapped HER out of her chair!

What parent, boss or pastor, wouldn't love one of those robots! Everyone would be honest no matter what! The majority of Christians see themselves as totally honest people, but are they really? Are we? How easy it is to excuse and dismiss dishonesty in our lives, to even justify it.

Now I'm not talking about out and out deliberate lies. Those are very obvious. I am thinking about the areas people are less vigilant in, maybe not even aware what they are doing is also

considered lying to God. Many might even consider them "small" things.

Be assured, with God, truthfulness is always white and black, no grey areas for Him. Even though man might classify something as "insignificant" or tiny," God views dishonesty, as a great sin. In fact, God lists lying twice among the six things He truly hates!

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." Proverbs 6:16-19

Now that's serious! Therefore we must look at this from God's perspective to know what is right and what is sin. I like to call these "dust bunny" sins.

You all know what dust bunnies are, don't you? They are matted balls of dust, lint, or hair, found hiding under furniture. Just as a dust bunny, these sins are there for two reasons.

One, we truly do not see them and know they are there, or two, we haven't been diligent in keeping our lives clean. Let's look at five common "dust bunny" sins.

HYPOCRISY

There are many forms of hypocrisy, but two seem to be very prevalent among Christians today. One is to be very diligent in noticing and correcting the failings of others, while having glaringly obvious sins in our lives that go uncorrected.

"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Matthew 7:5

("Dust Bunny Sins," cont on pg 7)



Latest News From Central Baptist College

Central Baptist College Welcomes New PACE & Online Enrollment Coordinator

Central Baptist College is pleased to announce the addition of a new team member to its Admissions Staff.

Carmen Thompson has joined CBC as the PACE & Online Enrollment Coordinator, bringing with her a strong background in communications, marketing, and higher education.

"We are excited to welcome Carmen to the team," said CBC Vice President for Enrollment Management Steve Elder.

"She brings with her a varied background in higher education that will significantly benefit PACE and Central Baptist College."

A graduate of Webster University, Thompson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media and Communications.

Her professional experience includes serving as a Digital Marketing Specialist, where she developed and executed strategic outreach campaigns, and as a Financial Aid Advisor at the University of Central Arkansas, where she guided students through the financial aid process and supported their educational goals.

In her new role, Thompson will work closely with prospective adult and online

learners through CBC's PACE (Professional Adult College Education) program.

She will oversee the enrollment process and support student success from initial inquiry through registration.

Founded in 1952, Central Baptist College is a four-year, private Christian liberal arts college committed to transforming lives through Christian faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Still Time to Register for CBC Day

We are grateful to the faithful churches of the BMA of Arkansas for partnering with Central Baptist College in our mission to biblically transform this generation through Christian higher education that integrates biblical faith and academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment.

Your ongoing support empowers CBC students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Christ to a world in desperate need of eternal truth. Thank you for your faithful obedience and commitment to this shared calling.

It's not too late to register your church to host a CBC Day on Sunday, September 28, 2025! We are thankful for the 65 churches who have signed up, and there's still time for your church to join in and help us surpass our goal.

To register, simply visit www.cbc.edu/cbcday. Churches participating will have the opportunity to:

Show an informational video during any service, share CBC Day materials with your congregation, and promote the college on your church website or social media platforms.

Invite a CBC representative to speak directly to your congregation or ministry group, and consider taking a love offering to support the mission of CBC.

We are happy to accommodate your schedule and are available to share during Sunday night or mid-week services. We also welcome invitations to speak at BMA of AR events such as WMA and Brotherhood meetings.

For any questions, please contact: Duffy Guyton, Vice President of Advancement by email at dguyton@cbc.edu or call (501) 269-6784.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and for considering the opportunity to host a CBC Day with your congregation or ministry group.

M.U.D. Week 2025

The MUD Run and Blue Party on August 21 brought an exciting close to M.U.D. Week 2025—a week full of energy, connection, and Mustang pride. This annual tradition serves as the official kickoff to the academic year, welcoming new students into the CBC family in unforgettable fashion.

S.O.S. (Student Orientation Staff) led the charge with a variety of events designed to foster community and fun, including Capture the Flag, Minute to Win It, Kickball, and many others.

This semester we welcomed 174 freshmen and transfer students with the Green Team emerging as the 2025 M.U.D. Week Champions.

As part of tradition, the winning team members each signed The Post, a commemorative display honoring champions from years past.

The week concluded with the Blue Party, where every new student donned CBC blue to symbolize their official entrance into the Mustang family.

Recognizing Outstanding S.O.S. Members

Following M.U.D. Week, several S.O.S. members were honored for exceptional service.



“CBC News,” cont from pg 4

The Spark Plug Award was presented to one member from each team who served as a driving force and source of energy for their peers.

Recipients of the Spark Plug Award were Nadiyah Bunton (Green Team), Reed Wanamaker (Orange Team), Lauren Duncan (Red Team), and Luke Oden (Yellow Team).

The Reflector Award was given to the team member who best reflected Christ to new students and fellow S.O.S. members.

Recipients of the Reflector Award were Mary Grace Hall (Green Team), Madison Smithhart (Orange Team), Shaylee Carver (Red Team), and Audrey Krisell (Yellow Team).

The Director's Award recognizes one S.O.S. member whose leadership shined brightly throughout the week. This year's Director's Award went to Reed Wanamaker (Orange Team), who will serve as an S.O.S. Team Leader for M.U.D. Week 2026.

Additionally, the Red Team was awarded the coveted Spirit Stick for demonstrating unmatched enthusiasm and team pride.

A Team Effort

This year's M.U.D. Week was made possible by 39 dedicated S.O.S. members, along with the hard work of Student Services, faculty, and staff.

A special thank you goes to Blake Pittman, Student Activities Coordinator, for his countless hours planning and executing the week's events.

As we step into a new academic year, we are excited to see how God works in the lives of our students and look forward to watching them grow throughout their journey at CBC.

Fall Chapel Theme and Speakers Announced

If I've said it once in the last few months, I've said it a couple hundred times: at CBC, Christ is central to everything we do. That truth is never more evident than at 1:00pm every Wednesday during the semester. At

that hour, our students, faculty, and staff gather for a time of corporate worship we simply call "Chapel."

Chapel is my favorite time of the week. Our talented, student-led Chapel Band leads us in worship, and I've often felt chills run down my spine as I pause to listen to a room full of college students singing praises to our Lord. It is truly powerful.

This year, I asked for Wednesday afternoon classes to be pushed back by 15 minutes. This will give us more time in Chapel and will allow the band to return to the stage for a time of worshipful reflection after the sermon.

Our theme for Chapel this fall will be "Press On: How the Gospel Shapes Our Future," based on Paul's words in Philippians 3:12-14. By both the religious and worldly standards of his day, Paul was a very successful man.

However, he realized that before he met Christ, he had not truly gained anything. He came to understand that the best God had for him could only be attained by pursuing God's call on his life.

There is no doubt that the world—and even "religion"—offers our students things that seem attractive or even necessary in the moment, but can lead to unforeseen heartache later. Society tells them that following Jesus means missing out on life's best.

We know those messages simply aren't true—and Paul knew that too. Pressing on—chasing after God's divine purpose and will—is the only way to find lasting fulfillment. That is the message I hope our students receive this fall.

I will kick things off by preaching from the theme passage during our opening Chapel on August 27, and I will conclude the theme during our final preaching Chapel on November 19.

The fall Chapel schedule will wrap up on December 3 with Christmas

performances from the CBC Fine Arts Department.

Fall 2025 Chapel Speakers

Sept. 3 – Dr. Scott Attebery, CBC alumnus and CEO of Kyzer Musical Products

Sept. 10 – Hudson Turnage, senior Bible major

Sept. 17 – Michael Treat, Associate Pastor for College and Young Adults at Central Baptist Church in Conway

Sept. 24 – Devin DiGuilio, CBC alumnus and Youth and Family Pastor at First Baptist Church in Magnolia

Oct. 1 – Adam Thomas, CBC alumnus, Teaching Pastor at Wyatt Baptist Church in El Dorado, and member of the CBC Board of Trustees

Oct. 8 – Drew Tiner, CBC alumnus and Youth and Worship Pastor at Perryville Baptist Church

Oct. 15 – Dr. Jason Aultman, Lead Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Conway

Oct. 22 – Jeremy Hambrice, BMA Missionary to Papua New Guinea

Oct. 29 – Chris Lucy, CBC alumnus, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Springhill, La., and member of the CBC Board of Trustees

Nov. 5 – Jason Prewitt, Camp Director at Daniel Springs Baptist Camp in Gary, Texas

Nov. 12 – Dr. Billy Crow, CBC alumnus and Pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Greenbrier

Please pray for these men as they prepare to present God's Word to our students each week. Pray that our students will be receptive as the Word is preached and that we will experience a revival on campus as they follow Him more closely.

Some students at CBC have never trusted Christ as their Savior. Would you join me in praying specifically for them? There is nothing I would rather see than a great harvest of souls at CBC!

"That Reminds Me"

By Jesse Spurlock

"The Days of Our Years Are..."

Some passages of Scripture take on new meaning with the passage of time. So it was with me the other day when I read Psalm 90:10. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

For those who don't know about this "threescore" and "fourscore" type of wording, a "score" is twenty. So threescore is sixty, and threescore and ten would be seventy. Fourscore is eighty. That eighty didn't strike me as significant, but that seventy, jazz...

When I was a small boy and was first told that threescore and ten was seventy, and fourscore was eighty, it didn't really concern me too much, because that was sooooo old anyway.

However, as I sailed past the landmark of seventy years, I realized seventy is not old at all. It's actually middle age. (Although I've never in my life met anyone who was 140 years old.

Seventy years can't be old, because that's where I am, and where I'm just getting started.

I wondered why the Psalmist wrote that the days of our years are threescore and ten? He was surely talking about someone else when he said "our days."

Do you think he might have had in mind him and his brother? You know, like when two brothers would say, "our mother". That would mean "their" mother, but no one else's and especially not mine.

So maybe the Psalmist didn't really mean me. He just meant he and his brothers were seventy, and maybe even eighty.

Of course, most know I'm only having a little fun with those thoughts. I know what the Psalmist meant, and most others do

also. He is talking about the normal life expectancy for the human of his day., but also by stating "fourscore years" he tell us there were those who lived even longer.

Our own personal length of life is in the hands of God. Some will live seventy years, some will live longer, but some will not even reach seventy years. None of us are guaranteed a certain number of years.

Also, the Psalmist's point is not the age we might live, but the fact there will be sorrow and labor all our life, whether we live to be seventy or even eighty.

He concludes with the statement that our life is "soon cut off and we fly away." "He has the brevity and swiftness of life in mind.

I'm also aware there will be those



who might say, "I don't think you should tell anyone you're seventy."

Folks! The only drawback I see in telling others my age is when I do something dumb, people will say, "Well, at least at his age he ought to know better."

Otherwise, I find it very nice that many young people treat me

with respect and assume I know what I'm talking about now.

Also, around the church, when something heavy has to be lifted, the younger men rush over and say, "Let me get that. You shouldn't be lifting that." I can still pick it up, but why argue?

I'm thankful to the Lord He has permitted me to live seventy years in relatively good health, although I do have more aches and pains than I did a few years ago. Each reminds me of how thankful I really need to be.

However, as has been stated before, "It is not how long we live, but rather how well we lived that truly matters at the end of the journey."



I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. Psalm 22:14

“Dust Bunny Sins” cont from pg 3

“Even though man might classify something as ‘insignificant’ or tiny,” God views dishonesty, as a great sin. In fact, God lists lying twice among the six things He truly hates!”

Another is to profess to be a Christian and not living a Christian life. Yes they may be faithful to church services, but in the world no one would know they belonged to the Lord.

All manner of sin is “excused” in their lives and over looked. 1 John 2:4 tells us, *“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”*

FLATTERY

Flattery is one of the most subtle forms of deceit. I found myself asking, “What is the difference between a compliment and flattery? The first is sincere, realistic. The second is fake and nothing but a lie.

“Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.” Psalms 78:36

Usually people flatter others when they want to get something from them. It may be cooperation, acceptance, or trust. At the core of all flattery is selfishness, greediness, manipulation for personal gain just out right lying! I love what the Irish call it, BLARNEY!

EXAGGERATION

This one is one that few people realize is lying and it is very easy to fall into. It is making something appear to be greater than it is.

Exaggeration goes beyond the bounds of truth. I’m referring to joking, fictional stories or figures of speech, No, this type of lying is used to get attention by making something sound more interesting, to boast, impress people, obtain a position, or show one’s self right in a matter.

Whatever we exaggerate we stretch the facts and we therefore weaken what we are trying to prove.

MAKING PROMISES AND NOT KEEPING THEM

Now we all know there are times we make a promise and unexpected circumstances beyond our control hinder us from keeping it.

This is concerning the times we COULD keep our promise but through excuses and justification, choose not to. It also stands to reason we should never keep sinful promises and for that matter never make them to begin with!

Sadly, rather than have integrity, be committed to our word, sacrifice our plans, or possibly be inconvenienced to keep our promise, we make light of it and choose to bail out. By doing so, we have made ourselves a liar.

Keeping a promise may be uncomfortable and even unpleasant, but we should do it anyway. To avoid this type of lying will take some real work.

Daily pressures, lack of time, over-crowded schedules make it far too easy for us to “feel” we can reasonably go back on our word and think nothing of it. It should always make us think twice before we make a promise, being sure we can carry through.

“But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”
Matthew 5:37

SANTA CLAUS AND THE EASTER BUNNY

This one usually draws a lot of fire and sometimes out right anger. People do not want to give up those happy memories and holiday traditions of their childhood and admit they are lying to children.

What else can it be?

Parents and grandparents alike enjoy seeing the little ones delight in gifts and fun. We can’t say it is harmless fun because the children believe them to be real. A lie is a lie and sin is sin.

And whether it shows up right away or not, sin is damaging and destructive.

They justify it by saying when they are older they will know the truth. We made this mistake with our two oldest daughters.

When it was “time” to confess and we revealed Santa was not real. Our oldest daughter looked at us with such sadness in her eyes and said, “Why did you lie to me”.

It struck us really hard because we had strongly taught the biblical truths of always being honest.

What saddens me the most is both of these traditional lies take away from two of the most important times of the year we set aside to remember what the Lord has done for us; our Savior’s birth and His resurrection?

And worst of all it is directed at innocent little children who not only trust us but who are entrusted to us by God to teach His Truth. Which are more important, warm gooey holiday feelings or pleasing God?

Do you think you might have any of these “dust bunny” sins lurking around your bodily “temple?”

Well just like with the dust bunnies that hide under the bed the best place to start looking is on your knees!

“Nobody Tells Me...” cont from pg 1

More simply, he just listened to the wrong voices. It's so easy to hear only what we want to hear. It's so hard to give consideration to ideas that go against what we feel is right for us. In this young king's case, he missed the lessons of his grandfather David, a man after God's own heart.

He wasn't around to see the struggles of David's youth. He never knew the shepherd boy who sat out under the stars writing psalms to God. He didn't see the recluse on the run in the wilderness, but the ruler who ran the show in the palace.

He missed his father Solomon's proverbs, but he welcomed the thought of his power. So when it came time to decide what kind of king he would be, he chose the image he thought most desirable.

Does God's way ever seem a little awkward to you as well? Do you scour the Scriptures for answers, only to find the answers confuse you more than the questions? Have you ever read God's Word and thought, "Wait, that can't say what I think it is saying."

A quick run through Matthew 5, one of today's most popular of Jesus' teachings, may leave a lot of Christians scratching their heads in wonder. Take a look at just a few of the odd turns this roadmap for life will take you on.

When this world persecutes you...be happy.

Murder is bad...but being angry is just as bad.

Adultery is a grave sin...if you've lusted after a woman, you're already guilty.

Getting even is for wimps...if someone hits you, let 'em hit ya again.

Someone takes the shirt off your back...give them the matching coat.

It may be time for us to start pulling out our eyes, or cutting off our hands.

You love your friends? That's nice...see

how good you are at loving your enemies.

Harsh statements from a Savior who says he loves us, cares for us, wants the best for us. Sounds more like he wants us to be the losers in this world.

But maybe, just maybe, he knows what it takes to be a real winner. Maybe Jesus understands something about people and their destinations outside of this life that turns our logic upside down. Maybe, he didn't just teach us these principles by his word, but by his actions.

Matthew 26:39-43

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is at all possible, let me not have to drink of this cup; however, it's not my will I want, but Yours." Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not stay awake with Me for one hour? Watch and pray, so you don't fall into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is so weak." Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, "O My Father, if I must drink of this cup, then Your will be done."

Contrast the leadership decisions of King Rehoboam and King Jesus.

-Rehoboam's only thought was "what's in it for me?"

-Jesus said, it's not about what I want, but what is best for those whom I love.

-Rehoboam lived in fear the people might see him as weak or foolish.

-Jesus prayed, no matter how bad it seems to me, if it's my Father's will, I want it

-Rehoboam was searching for answers he wanted to hear.

-Jesus was actively seeking the desire of God

Jesus possessed a perspective we don't always see. He understood, God's purpose is people. He came into this world with the sole purpose of lost souls. The Son of Man came into this world to seek and to save that thing which God

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date ReCharge '25

September 29-October 1
Guest speaker Sam Rainer

BMAOK Annual Meeting

October 3-4
Sunray, Purcell

CBC Stampede Preview dates

October 8, 2025
November 12, 2025
March 4, 2026

had lost.

Jesus tried to teach others, it's all about letting go. He tried to show us it's about denying yourself and living for others. That's what he means by phrases like "take up your cross and follow me," and, "you have to lose your life to find it."

Jesus clearly demonstrates if we are going to discover God's will, many times we will need to avoid, sometimes even contradict, the advice of those in opposition to God's will. If you're not saying what God is saying, then get thee behind me Satan, I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

Are we committed to the wisdom of God's Word? Are we willing to agree with what he is telling us, even before we read it? Are we truly willing to relinquish control of our lives, and surrender completely to the will of the Father?