



## Jesus Says

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**Scripture:** *Matthew 9:9–13; Hosea 6:6, Romans 2:4*

**Idea:** Jesus invites unbelievers and misbehavers to follow him.

### Introduction

1. As a believer, there have been times when I thought the Christian life could have been called “Jesus Says.” “Jesus says, ‘Pray.’” “Jesus says, ‘Don’t look over there.’” “Jesus says, ‘Be nice.’” “Jesus says, ‘Get up early and read your Bible.’”
2. I kept having to sit down. JESUS DIDN’T SAY! In fact, it was a relief to sit out of the game for a while . . . take a break. Then I would hear a sermon about playing “Jesus Says,” and back in I would go for another round.
3. The frustrating thing was that some people were so good at it. They could stay in the game forever . . . a lifetime. I kept having to sit down.
4. I would meet people who had never played “Jesus Says,” and I would think, *Now they really need to play.* But I’m so bad at it, I can’t imagine inviting them to play.
5. It is very easy to lose sight of the relational nature of the Christian faith; that the driving force behind the Christian faith is not a list of regulations, but rather a relationship with a living Savior.

*The tragedy is . . .*

6. When we lose sight of the relational nature of Christianity—if we begin pursuing a list of things to do—and we don’t DO too well, we lose our joy, our victory over temptation, and balance.
7. It would be like pursuing the rules and principles of marriage rather than the person you are married to. You could be doing everything right, but have no real relationship.
8. How enjoyable would that be? How long would that charade go on?
9. That’s why so many of us bailed out after high school or in college or even after a few years of marriage. Playing “Jesus Says” will wear you out.

*The irony is . . .*

### I. The reason Jesus came was to lay the groundwork for a new kind of relationship with God.

- A. He came to change the spiritual paradigm.
  1. . . . how to relate to him.
  2. . . . how to think about him.
  3. . . . how to approach him.
- B. He gave us several word pictures to help us think correctly about spiritual reality.

*Father/Child*