



Marine Jesus – “He is with you always, just like your rifle.”

Semper Fi! – “Always Faithful!” To be a Marine means a daily commitment to live up to the highest standards. Being a Marine means to be ever accountable to the Warrior Ethos which adheres to these fundamental truths: character counts, honesty is incorruptible, and integrity means everything. We need our Christian commitment to be more “Marine like” than what our culture has made Christian men to be. Jesus modeled a warrior like character. When we discover his true character, we uncover the real Jesus. A true knowledge of Jesus is our greatest need and our greatest happiness. This study will help us be the men God designed us to be – men willing to initiate, take responsibility, and to fight for a cause greater than ourselves. Semper Fi!

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Jesus – CUNNING
 Matthew 10:5-28

October 28, 2021

Bible Verses: Matthew 10:5-28; John 20:19-23; I Corinthians 2:6-9; Mark 10:17-27; I Corinthians 11:7-9; Genesis 3:12, 13; Job 9:14-20; 24:22-25; Micah 6:6-8; Romans 5:12
Music: Zach Williams - Fear Is a Liar
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1srs1YoTVzs>

Resources: *Beautiful Outlaw – Experiencing the Playful, Disruptive, Extravagant Personality of Jesus* by John Eldredge.
Video: Gen. Jerry Boykin - The 5 P's of Manhood
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIJ_B68xSEg

Marine Jesus: How would Jesus have you be snakelike today?

Jesus – Imitation of Christ – Do you love him for his cunning?

- _____ → Jesus uses a dove and a snake as metaphors for what he wants from the disciples. Be as holy as the Spirit and be as cunning as Satan. The reference would have instantly connected these Jewish disciples to the serpent in the Garden. “*You want us to do what?!*”
- _____ → Over the course of the next few years, Jesus’ movement will disrupt the Jewish system very, very profoundly. He is going to turn things upside down and inside out. The world will never be the same. Without his teaching on genuine holiness, the crowd could shift to anarchy.
- _____ → We don’t appreciate Jesus’ cunning because we insist on clinging to our naive view of the world. We just want life to be easy; we just want life to be good. We don’t want to deal with evil, so we pretend we don’t have to. We don’t want to navigate sin either. It’s as through we think our mission and our context is something other than what it was for Jesus. See John 20:19-23. Satan did not know that by sacrificing Jesus he would pull the one pin that would crumble his entire kingdom, fall into the scheme God the Father had carefully, ever so carefully arranged for the undoing of evil (I Cor. 2:6-9).
- _____

Marine Jesus: Watch him with “the rich young ruler” – Mark 10:17-27.

- _____ → God warned the Jews many times against idolatry, that if any one set up an idol in their heart, God would set himself against them. So hard to topple a cherished idol!
- _____ → Jesus exposes him as no better than the brute heathen bowing before a wooden carving. Jesus yanks this man off balance, sets his entire world reeling, and in the same moment extends his hand to catch him: “*Let this go. Then come, join me. I want you to join me.*” What an invitation!
- _____ → The rich young ruler walks away, head cast down in sorrow. Exposed, but also captive to his false god. Wealth is not the point. The idol is the point. It might be anything—the attention of men, status, self-righteousness, power, family, even church. Jesus knows he has pulled the one thread that will unravel the whole fabric of his life.

Marine Jesus: Act Like a Man!

- INITIATE!** → Men initiate, women respond. Briefly, biblical support for this position is found, among other passages, in the creation order in Genesis 2, in I Corinthians 11:7-9, and Ephesians 5. To initiate is to be wise about setting a pattern that will serve you well in all areas of your life. Areas to initiate growth in are physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual.
- TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!** → Stop the blame game and find power in personal responsibility (Gen. 3:12, 13). Live in reality. Own your part. See Job 9:14-20; 24:22-25; Micah 6:6-8; Proverbs 26:11; Luke 14:26, 27.
- FIGHT!** = A Man knows he must fight—life is a life and death matter (Romans 5:12) You are good at sin! = Seven deadly sins: envy, greed, lust, anger, sloth, gluttony, and pride. The longer creation exists in a state of separation from God, the effects of that separation become more and more clear.

ACTION: Journal This!

- What keeps you a slave?
- How tough is your faith?
- Are you a quitter?

“Fear Is A Liar” – By Zach Williams

When he told you you're not good enough When he told you you're not right When he told you you're not strong enough To put up a good fight When he told you you're not worthy When he told you you're not loved When he told you you're not beautiful That you'll never be enough Fear he is a liar He will take your breath Stop you in your steps Fear he is a liar He will rob your rest Steal your happiness	Cast your fear in the fire Cause fear he is a liar When he told you were troubled You'll forever be alone When he told you you should run away You'll never find a home When he told you you were dirty And you should be ashamed When he told you you could be the one That grace could never change Fear he is a liar He will take your breath Stop you in your steps Fear he is a liar	He will rob your rest Steal your happiness Cast your fear in the fire Cause fear he is a liar Let Your fire fall and cast out all my fears Let Your fire fall Your love is all I feel Fear he is a liar He will take your breath Stop you in your steps Fear he is a liar He will rob your rest Steal your happiness Cast your fear in the fire Cause fear he is a liar
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Bible Verses – The Message

Matthew 10:5-28 - 5 Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge: **6** Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. **7** Tell them that the kingdom is here. **8** Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously. **9** "Don't think you have to put on a fund-raising campaign before you start. **10** You don't need a lot of equipment. You are the equipment, and all you need to keep that going is three meals a day. Travel light. **11** "When you enter a town or village, don't insist on staying in a luxury inn. Get a modest place with some modest people, and be content there until you leave. **12** "When you knock on a door, be courteous in your greeting. **13** If they welcome you, be gentle in your conversation. **14** If they don't welcome you, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way. **15** You can be sure that on Judgment Day they'll be mighty sorry - but it's no concern of yours now. **16** "Stay alert. This is hazardous work I'm assigning you. You're going to be like sheep running through a wolf pack, so don't call attention to yourselves. Be as cunning as a snake, inoffensive as a dove. **17** "Don't be naive. Some people will impugn your motives, others will smear your reputation - just because you believe in me. **18** Don't be upset when they haul you before the civil authorities. Without knowing it, they've done you - and me - a favor, given you a platform for preaching the kingdom news! **19** And don't worry about what you'll say or how you'll say it. The right words will be there; **20** the Spirit of your Father will supply the words. **21** "When people realize it is the living God you are presenting and not some idol that makes them feel good, they are going to turn on you, even people in your own family. **22** There is a great irony here: proclaiming so much love, experiencing so much hate! But don't quit. Don't cave in. It is all well worth it in the end. **23** It is not success you are after in such times but survival. Be survivors! Before you've run out of options, the Son of Man will have arrived. **24** "A student doesn't get a better desk than her teacher. A laborer doesn't make more money than his boss. **25** Be content - pleased, even - when you, my students, my harvest hands, get the same treatment I get. If they call me, the Master, 'Dungface,' what can the workers expect? **26** "Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are. **27** So don't hesitate to go public now. **28** "Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life - body and soul - in his hands.

John 20:19-23 - **19** Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." **20** Then he showed them his hands and side. **21** Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you." **22** Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. **23** "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

I Corinthians 2:6-9 - **6** We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you once you get your feet on firm spiritual ground, but it's not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. **7** God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. You don't find it lying around on the surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest - what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene. **8** The experts of our day haven't a clue about what this eternal plan is. If they had, they wouldn't have killed the Master of the God-designed life on a cross. **9** That's why we have this Scripture text: No one's ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it - What God has arranged for those who love him.

Mark 10:17-27 - **17** As he went out into the street, a man came running up, greeted him with great reverence, and asked, "Good

Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?" **18** Jesus said, "Why are you calling me good? No one is good, only God. **19** You know the commandments: Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, don't cheat, honor your father and mother." **20** He said, "Teacher, I have - from my youth - kept them all!" **21** Jesus looked him hard in the eye - and loved him! He said, "There's one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me." **22** The man's face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go. **23** Looking at his disciples, Jesus said, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who 'have it all' to enter God's kingdom?" **24** The disciples couldn't believe what they were hearing, but Jesus kept on: "You can't imagine how difficult. **25** I'd say it's easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for the rich to get into God's kingdom." **26** That set the disciples back on their heels. "Then who has any chance at all?" they asked. **27** Jesus was blunt: "No chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you let God do it."

I Corinthians 11:7-9 - **7** men and women, who far too often butt heads with each other, submit their "heads" to the Head: God. **8 9**

Genesis 3:12, 13 - **12** The Man said, "The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it." **13** God said to the Woman, "What is this that you've done?" "The serpent seduced me," she said, "and I ate."

Job 9:14-20; 14 "So how could I ever argue with him, construct a defense that would influence God? **15** Even though I'm innocent I could never prove it; I can only throw myself on the Judge's mercy. **16** If I called on God and he himself answered me, then, and only then, would I believe that he'd heard me. **17** As it is, he knocks me about from pillar to post, beating me up, black and blue, for no good reason. **18** He won't even let me catch my breath, piles bitterness upon bitterness. **19** If it's a question of who's stronger, he wins, hands down! If it's a question of justice, who'll serve him the subpoena? **20** Even though innocent, anything I say incriminates me; blameless as I am, my defense just makes me sound worse. If God's Not Responsible, Who Is?

Job 24:22-25 - **22** However much they strut and flex their muscles, there's nothing to them. They're hollow. **23** They may have an illusion of security, but God has his eye on them. **24** They may get their brief successes, but then it's over, nothing to show for it. Like yesterday's newspaper, they're used to wrap up the garbage. **25** You're free to try to prove me a liar, but you won't be able to do it."

Micah 6:6-8 - **6** How can I stand up before God and show proper respect to the high God? Should I bring an armload of offerings topped off with yearling calves? **7** Would God be impressed with thousands of rams, with buckets and barrels of olive oil? Would he be moved if I sacrificed my firstborn child, my precious baby, to cancel my sin? **8** But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously - take God seriously.

Romans 5:12 - **12** You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in - first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death.

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