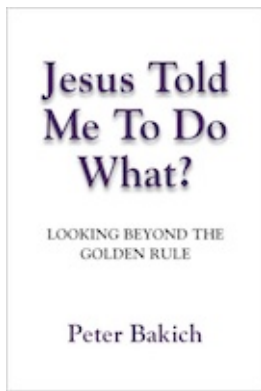


# Jesus Told Me To Do What?

LOOKING BEYOND THE  
GOLDEN RULE

Peter Bakich



*The Commandments of Jesus of Nazareth, which have transformed lives since first spoken, are presented in their entirety by author Peter Bakich in his book, **Jesus Told Me To Do What? Looking Beyond the Golden Rule**. No other book focuses on only the Commandments, and yet challenges you to make them the sum and substance of the life of your family and you.*

# Jesus Told Me to Do What?

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# **Jesus Told Me to Do What?**

## **Looking Beyond the Golden Rule**

P.D. (Rus) Bakich

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ISBN 978-1-61434-870-2

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Printed in the United States of America.

BookLocker.com, Inc.  
2011

First Edition

**John 15:4** "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Jesus is using a great symbol of Israel in this commandment. The vine was symbolic of Israel as far back as the Psalms (80:8), and Jesus knew that all who heard Him would understand it. He also knew that His audience would understand that they were the branches that would not bear fruit if separated from the vine. Communication with God was necessary for the people to live a happy and fruitful life.

1. How closely are you attached to the Lord? Can you sense him with you?
2. Give examples of a fruitful life.
3. Is your life fruitful enough for you to do much good in the world?

*Thoughts:*

*Looking Beyond the Golden Rule*

**Mark 9:50** "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

Salt is a symbol for many different things. In this case, it refers to purity—purity of heart, purity of soul, and purity from self. Self-centeredness can interfere with any relationship to the extent of ending it. Only by ending self-concern, are we able to live at peace with our neighbors and our friends.

1. How has self-centeredness spoiled a relationship for you?
2. What must you do personally to end self-centeredness?
3. The opposite of self-centered is other-centered. What would you have to change about yourself to become other-centered?

*Thoughts:*

*Jesus Told Me to Do What?*

**John 6:27** "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On Him, God the Father has placed His seal of approval."

Jesus is telling us to avoid worldly pursuits. We should not hunger after them. Rather we should hunger for the food that feeds our spirit for eternity. This food comes from the Son of Man. We know this is true because God has chosen Jesus to go between God and man.

1. Do you hunger for Jesus more than anything else?
2. What must you stop hungering for in order to make Jesus first?
3. What must you change about yourself in order to be able to hunger for Jesus?

*Thoughts:*

*Looking Beyond the Golden Rule*

**Luke 10:20** "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Jesus was teaching His followers to avoid pride and overconfidence. It was pride that had caused Satan to be cast from heaven, and Jesus didn't want a similar fate for his disciples. Pride causes us to dwell on our accomplishments and not what God has done for us.

1. When does pride block your view of God's work in you?
2. What would you have to change in yourself to be less prideful?
3. When will you be able to put nothing in your life above Jesus?

*Thoughts:*



**John 20:22–23** And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus gave His followers the Holy Spirit in the same way that God breathed life into man. At that moment His followers received life anew. They would start preaching about God's forgiveness to a needy world.

1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. How near to the Holy Spirit do you feel?
3. How could you tell others about the need for a penitent heart in order to receive the Holy Spirit?

*Thoughts:*

**Mark 7:27** "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

The request of Jesus to cast out an evil spirit came from a gentile woman wanting to save her daughter. Jesus actually tested her faith by telling her to be patient and wait awhile for the miracle to take place. The answer Jesus gives tells the world that the Jews were the first to be given the good news of Jesus, but only the first. Others would receive the word as well. Even though His ministry started with the Jews, the foundation was being established to take it to the rest of the world.

1. When you first received the good news of Jesus, how did you respond?
2. How are you responding to Jesus now?
3. How can you help others realize the good news of Jesus?

*Thoughts:*

**John 7:37–38** On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

The event here was the festival of Tabernacles, which held great historical and bountiful harvest significance for the Jews. They remembered how the Lord had provided water and food both now and during their wanderings in the desert. Jesus was saying that through Him they could receive life-giving water for their thirsty souls.

1. How did you first experience the quenching of your thirsty soul through Jesus?
2. How would you put into your own words the meaning of quenching a thirsty soul?
3. What might you say to another person in order to quench their thirsty soul?

*Thoughts:*

**John 14:15–17** "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the father, and he will give you another counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

For Jesus, complete obedience to His commandments is the only way to show our love for him. But Jesus also knows that living a Christian life is not going to be an easy task for us. So, he said that he would send another helper—the Holy Spirit. Many definitions have been given for the Holy Spirit and must be considered in order to get a fuller understanding of his nature. Words such as helper, comforter, expert witness, advocate, intercessor, empowerer are used to reveal the nature of the Holy Spirit.

1. Put your feelings and understandings about the Holy Spirit into your own words.
2. How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to live the Christian life?
3. Can you wait quietly for the Holy Spirit's answer to your prayers? Why? Why not?

*Thoughts:*

*Jesus Told Me to Do What?*

**John 16:24** "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

Jesus has given us a new relationship with God. We may ask for anything in Jesus' name. Because of Jesus, our hope and joy will always remain and be perfect; what we know of God through Jesus will be complete; and a new pathway to the heart of God is there for us. It is through Jesus that we may request and be granted forgiveness.

1. What do you ask for in Jesus' name?
2. Are the requests you ask of God worthy to be asked? Is this something we should think about?
3. Have you ever kept a journal of your requests of God? If so, were they answered? How?

*Thoughts:*

**Luke 11:9** "So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

This commandment occurs in the parable of the late-night visitor, who comes to a friend's house and asks for bread. Since it was customary to prepare only enough for one day to avoid spoilage, the friend refuses the request. Only after persistent prodding does the visitor finally convince the disgruntled homeowner to relent and make bread for him. The lesson to understand is that if a disgusted, angry friend will grudgingly meet your needs, how more willingly will your Father in heaven meet your needs?

1. What needs do you persist in bringing to God?
2. How could you explain the importance of this commandment to a new Christian?
3. How could your church create a group of prayer warriors who daily pray for the needs of the people?

*Thoughts:*

**Luke 24:49** "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Jesus was very intentional in commanding the disciples to wait in the city until they received the strength of the Holy Spirit before starting their ministry to the world. They had to allow the events of the previous days make clear what their task to the world would be. William Barclay called this waiting "wise passivity".

1. How would you prepare yourself, while waiting for your moment of strength, to act for the Lord?
2. Recall a time when you regretted waiting too long to act for the Lord.
3. Describe what you think this strength from on high is.

*Thoughts:*

**John 15:26–27** "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."

Humans react to Jesus, pray in Jesus' name, and tell the world about Jesus because of the actions of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, we can know Jesus intimately and help others to know him just as well.

1. How do you know that the Holy Spirit is active in your life?
2. In what ways has the Holy Spirit giving you the strength to tell others about Jesus?
3. How are you a different person as a result of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life?

*Thoughts:*



*Jesus Told Me to Do What?*

**John 12:26** "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

Jesus is telling his Greek visitors that in order to serve him they would have to follow in his footsteps and do as He did. In order to find salvation, they would have to sacrifice their lives for him.

1. How ready are you to go to such an extreme length to honor, worship, and follow Jesus?
2. How would you have to alter your life so you could leave everyone and everything to be an advocate for Christ?
3. How could you follow Jesus right where you are?

*Thoughts:*

**Matthew 3:13–15** Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

Jesus' baptism marked the beginning to his ministry on earth. For the first time, the Jews who followed Jesus recognized their own sin and need for repentance. This was unique since they felt they were the chosen, perfect people of God who didn't need baptism. Baptism was only for those new to the Jewish faith.

1. What does your baptism mean to you?
2. How have you consciously dedicated yourself to God in the same way your baptism did?
3. What is the value of rededicating yourself to God?

*Thoughts:*

**Matthew 28:19** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Here Jesus gives the most daunting command of all. His disciples are to go into the world and convert all people to Him. According to the Gospel they were not to distinguish one group over another. The command was to baptize all people everywhere.

1. If you were given this command from Jesus himself, where would you go first?
2. Why is it difficult for you to carry out this command?
3. How could you overcome the difficulties of carrying out this commandment?

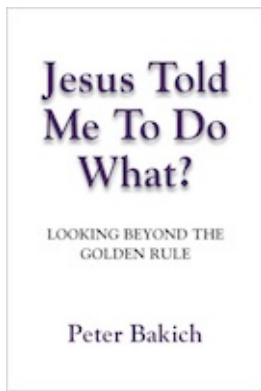
*Thoughts:*

**Luke 22:17–19** After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus had introduced a sacrament into his ministry by changing the meaning of these age-old symbols into something far more meaningful than they were before. One must truly have eyes to see and ears to hear in order to fully appreciate transforming an ordinary experience into a sacred moment.

1. How do you view the elements of the communion?
2. What thoughts come to mind for you during communion?
3. At what point in your life did communion take on a sacred nature?

*Thoughts:*



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