

# Apprenticing Jesus

|| A Series Through the Gospel of Luke

## He Who's Words Are Gracious

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**Sermon Synopsis:** Jesus' words are full of grace, and reach out to heal people who deserve it the least

**Themes:** apprenticeship, healing, serving

### Luke 4:38-41 (ESV)

And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

## Sayings that aren't in the Bible

God moves in mysterious ways – William Cowper/Bono

This too shall pass – "Scripture tells you that all things shall pass. This, too, shall pass" – Mike Ditka

God will never give you more than you can handle – 1 Cor 10:13? Nah, *temptation*, not *trial*.<sup>1</sup>

I have three more of these. All sayings that Christians often quote, that are not in the Bible, and are in fact directly contradicted by our text this morning.

### **1. "God helps those who help themselves"**

The earliest recording of this saying is actually from Aesop's fable "Hercules and the Waggoner." A man's wagon got stuck in a muddy road, and he prayed for Hercules to help. Hercules appeared and said, "Get up and put your shoulder to the wheel." The moral given was "The gods help them that help themselves."<sup>2</sup>

Not only is this false (beatitudes, Luke 4),

but He looks for people who aren't even looking! (38-39)

**God has been working on you before you began looking for him!]**

### **2. "Cleanliness is next to godliness"**

It originated as an ancient Babylonian and Hebrew proverb, but became very popular during the Victorian era after being revived by Sir Francis Bacon and John Wesley.<sup>3</sup>

We see something powerful here...*touch*

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<sup>1</sup> See 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 where Paul is given more than he can handle...for a reason

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/not-in-the-Bible.html>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

God came to heal (39a, 40-41a),  
and is compassionate<sup>4</sup> (40b)

**Godliness is next to dirtiness**

→ grace!  
problem: us not them

### 3. "Fight fire with fire"

1. *Use the weapons or tactics of one's enemy or opponent, even if one finds them distasteful.*

- When Christians use whatever means necessary to get what they want

TEXT: the building popularity + demon testimony = nationalistic uprising<sup>5</sup>

BUT Jesus' way is to serve → to death

**Jesus' way is to fight fire with grace**

Isaiah 53:4 (ESV)

Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

Commonality: these sayings all have something in common—they are about saving ourselves in some way. **Be good, clean your act up, get them before they get you.**

Grace: "I've not come to the good/clean/strong of this world, but to those desperate enough for change and know they can't save themselves.

### Our response

Peter's momma gets this

immediately she rose and began to serve them. (39)

Do we?

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<sup>4</sup> Hughes. 161

<sup>5</sup> Morris, 130; Bock, 438; Edwards, 148