

Jesus on Rights and Entitlements

Simple Definition: “ENTITLEMENT” The condition of having a right to have, do or get something. The feeling or belief that you deserve to be given something¹

1. On Freedom

Luke 21:12-19 ¹²“But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ Stand firm, and you will win life.”

Should the follower of Jesus expect freedom for all or something else?

- *“They will seize you and persecute you”*
- *“They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison”*
- *“You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death”*

2. On Possessions

Matthew 19:21-24 ²¹“Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Should the follower of Jesus expect the American Dream or something else?

- *“Sell your possessions and give to the poor”*
- *“It is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven”*
- *“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God”*

¹ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/entitlement>

3. On Happiness

Matthew 16:24-27 ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[f] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”

Should the follower of Jesus expect the pursuit of happiness or something else?

- “*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves...*”
- “*...and take up their cross and follow me*”
- “*Whoever wants to save their life will lose it*”

4. On Safety

John 15:18-21 ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’^[b] If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.”

Should the follower of Jesus expect to be safe or something else?

- “*You do not belong to the world*”
- “*The world hates you*”
- “*If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also*”
- “*They will treat you this way because of my name*”