

Written in Red: Hard Things Jesus Said

Good Enough for Heaven

Matthew 5:20

Introduction

Who is the best person you know (or know of)? A person who has lived a really good life, who has done way more good than bad, a person who—if anyone does—stands a chance of being good enough for heaven on their own. Maybe you are thinking of Billy Graham, Mother Theresa, Mohandas Gandhi or ...

The best ladder-climbers in history

1. Long list of good things to do
2. Longer list of bad things not to do
3. Everything is black or white
4. Looking good more important than being good
5. Feeling superior to everyone else
6. Believing they had earned God's blessings

Life on the ladder

1. How will I ever know if I've done enough?
2. What happens when I stumble and fall?
3. Does God only love me when I deserve it?
4. Does God grade on the curve?
5. Do I get credit for trying?

The cross instead

1. Get off the ladder!
2. Admit that you'll never make it to God
3. Accept that he came to where you are
4. Accept his righteousness as a gift
5. Don't go back to the ladder

Personal Response

God, I'm sick and tired of trying to get you to love me. I am weary of living on this stupid ladder—always trying harder, but so often failing and then feeling like a failure. Today, I exchange my ladder for your cross. I'm finished trying to be good enough and accept that you have already done what I never could. I accept your perfection and your death on the cross for my failures. Today I receive you as my Savior. Amen.

Next Week: *I don't know you*
Matthew 7:21-23