

THIS TEACHING IS HARD

EPISODE 9

SYNOPSIS

In the scriptures, Jesus teaches and says some things that can be hard for us to accept. We can sometimes run the risk of making Jesus into our own image, emphasizing the things we like and ignoring the things that challenge us. But Jesus is not a caricature. He is a person. It is important that we be obedient and humble when we come face to face with some of these "hard teachings." Ultimately, we can be confident in knowing that God loves us, that Jesus came to save us, and that we will be given the grace necessary to embrace these hard but beautiful truths.

LUKE 12:49-51 *"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!... Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."*

MATTHEW 15:12-14 *Then his disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He said in reply, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides [of the blind]. If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit."*

MATTHEW 7: 13-14 *Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. We tend to focus on the parts of Jesus that make us feel good. What are some of your favorite things that Jesus said? What do you like about those sayings or teachings?
2. What hard teachings do you struggle with? Have you tried asking God to give you the grace to accept these teachings?
3. Jesus begins his ministry with a celebration. How have you experienced Jesus sharing in life's celebrations with you?



**"CHRISTIANITY
HAS NOT BEEN
TRIED AND FOUND
WANTING; IT HAS
BEEN FOUND
DIFFICULT AND
LEFT UNTRIED."**

-G.K. CHESTERTON-

Photo from Crisis Magazine, via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

If there are any hard teachings that are causing you confusion or anxiety, ask Jesus to come and move in your heart. Ask him for conversion and conviction, but above all, ask that you can know his deep love for you. Trust that he will always provide the necessary grace for you.