



## Marine Jesus – “He is with you always, just like your rifle.”

Semper Fi! – “Always Faithful!” To be a Marine means a daily commitment to live up to the highest standards. Being a Marine means to be ever accountable to the Warrior Ethos which adheres to these fundamental truths: character counts, honesty is incorruptible, and integrity means everything. We need our Christian commitment to be more “Marine like” than what our culture has made Christian men to be. Jesus modeled a warrior like character. When we discover his true character, we uncover the real Jesus. A true knowledge of Jesus is our greatest need and our greatest happiness. This study will help us be the men God designed us to be – men willing to initiate, take responsibility, and to fight for a cause greater than ourselves. Semper Fi!

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable

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Jesus – A Scandalous Freedom

Matthew 8:1-4

October 21, 2021

**Bible Verses:** Matthew 8:1-4; John 4:1-9; Galatians 2:1-10; Matthew 12:1-8; I Corinthians 11:7-9; Genesis 3:12, 13; Job 9:14-20; 24:22-25; Micah 6:6-8; Romans 5:12

**Music:** Zach Williams - No Longer Slaves (Live from Harding Prison)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDnA\\_coA168](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDnA_coA168)

**Resources:** *Beautiful Outlaw – Experiencing the Playful, Disruptive, Extravagant Personality of Jesus* by John Eldredge.

**Video:** Gen. Jerry boykin - The 5 P's of Manhood

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klJ\\_B68xSEg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klJ_B68xSEg)

### Marine Jesus: What do you do with the freedom of Jesus?

*Jesus’ freedom is difficult to teach on for many reasons; let me name two.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → There are certain types who will hear this and find it an excuse to live as they please. Many characters in our irreverent age “don’t care what others think.” Their freedom is abrasive and unholy.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Others will dismiss the freedom Jesus offers out of fear—either the fear of what people think (which, ironically, is sin), or the fear of “falling into immorality.”
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → The scandalous freedom Jesus models for us is based in an understanding of a holiness much deeper than anything the religious ever concocted. See Matthew 5:20. The only possible way that can happen is through an internal revolution, a changed heart.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → Jesus is free—free from what people think, free from religion, free from false obligation. People don’t like it, don’t understand it; they draw false conclusions, point fingers, and worse. He is free from all that. OH, TO BE SO FREE! See Galatians 2:1-10.

### Marine Jesus: A Scandalous Freedom – Matthew 8:1-4.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → The leper comes near Jesus—but not too near. What does Jesus do? He reaches out and touches him. The kindness is Jesus in this one act is enough to make me fall in love with him. His scandalous freedom has now cause Jesus to be defiled. Jesus demands that holiness move a righteousness that is external to the internal.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → This is scandalous! See John 4:3-9). The Samaritans were hated by the Jews with a quasi-religious fury and a form of local racism of the most ferocious temper. A Jewish man would never speak to a Jewish woman. And, this woman has a “reputation.” She is sexually indiscreet at a time that she could be stoned.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → Jesus is continually breaking the law and encouraging others to do so. See Matthew 12:1-8. He is seen as an outlaw by the religious leaders. Jesus calls us to make a distinction between the laws of God and the laws of men. He wants us to understand the difference between the spirit of the law and the letter of the law.

### Marine Jesus: Act Like a Man!

1. **INITIATE!** → Men initiate, women respond. Briefly, biblical support for this position is found, among other passages, in the creation order in Genesis 2, in I Corinthians 11:7-9, and Ephesians 5. To initiate is to be wise about setting a pattern that will serve you well in all areas of your life. Areas to initiate growth in are physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual.
2. **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!** → Stop the blame game and find power in personal responsibility (Gen. 3:12, 13). Live in reality. Own your part. See Job 9:14-20; 24:22-25; Micah 6:6-8; Proverbs 26:11; Luke 14:26, 27.
3. **FIGHT!** = A Man knows he must fight—life is a life and death matter (Romans 5:12) You are good at sin! = Seven deadly sins: envy, greed, lust, anger, sloth, gluttony, and pride. The longer creation exists in a state of separation from God, the effects of that separation become more and more clear.

### ACTION: Journal This!

1. What inhibits you or prohibits you from being free?
2. In what way are you rigid or judgmental?
3. What would others like you to do to be a better lover?

### “No Longer Slaves” – By Zach Williams

<p>I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God You unravel me with a melody You surround me with a song Of deliverance from my enemies 'Til all my fears are gone And I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God From my mother's womb You have chosen me Your love has called my name And I've been born again to your family Your blood flows through my veins</p>	<p>I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God And I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God I am surrounded By the arms of the Father And I am surrounded By songs of deliverance We've been liberated From our bondage We're the sons and the daughters Let us sing our freedom Oh, oh, oh-oh-ohhh Oh, oh, oh-oh-ohhh Oh, oh, oh-oh-ohhh Oh, oh, oh-oh-ohhh</p>	<p>You split the sea So I could walk right through it My fears are drowned in perfect love You rescued me And I will stand and sing I am a child of God You split the sea So I could walk right through it You drowned my fears in perfect love You rescued me And I will stand and sing I am a child of God Yes, I am I am a child of God Yes, I am I am a child of God I'm no longer a slave to fear Oh, I am a child of God Oh, I'm no longer a slave to fear (Oh, I am a child of God)</p>
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## Bible Verses – The Message

**Matthew 8:1-4 - 1** Jesus came down the mountain with the cheers of the crowd still ringing in his ears. **2** Then a leper appeared and went to his knees before Jesus, praying, "Master, if you want to, you can heal my body." **3** Jesus reached out and touched him, saying, "I want to. Be clean." Then and there, all signs of the leprosy were gone. **4** Jesus said, "Don't talk about this all over town. Just quietly present your healed body to the priest, along with the appropriate expressions of thanks to God. Your cleansed and grateful life, not your words, will bear witness to what I have done."

**John 4:1-9 - 1** Jesus realized that the Pharisees were keeping count of the baptisms that he and John performed **2** (although his disciples, not Jesus, did the actual baptizing). They had posted the score that Jesus was ahead, turning him and John into rivals in the eyes of the people. **3** So Jesus left the Judean countryside and went back to Galilee. **4** To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. **5** He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon. **7** A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give me a drink of water?" **8** (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.) **9** The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, "How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (Jews in those days wouldn't be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)

**Galatians 2:1-10 - 1** Fourteen years after that first visit, Barnabas and I went up to Jerusalem and took Titus with us. **2** I went to clarify with them what had been revealed to me. At that time I placed before them exactly what I was preaching to the non-Jews. I did this in private with the leaders, those held in esteem by the church, so that our concern would not become a controversial public issue, marred by ethnic tensions, exposing my years of work to denigration and endangering my present ministry. **3** Significantly, Titus, non-Jewish though he was, was not required to be circumcised. **4** While we were in conference we were infiltrated by spies pretending to be Christians, who slipped in to find out just how free true Christians are. Their ulterior motive was to reduce us to their brand of servitude. **5** We didn't give them the time of day. We were determined to preserve the truth of the Message for you. **6** As for those who were considered important in the church, their reputation doesn't concern me. God isn't impressed with mere appearances, and neither am I. And of course these leaders were able to add nothing to the message I had been preaching. **7** It was soon evident that God had entrusted me with the same message to the non-Jews as Peter had been preaching to the Jews. **8 9** Recognizing that my calling had been given by God, James, Peter, and John - the pillars of the church - shook hands with me and Barnabas, assigning us to a ministry to the non-Jews, while they continued to be responsible for reaching out to the Jews. **10** The only additional thing they asked was that we remember the poor, and I was already eager to do that.

**Matthew 12:1-8 - 1** One Sabbath, Jesus was strolling with his disciples through a field of ripe grain. Hungry, the disciples were pulling off the heads of grain and munching on them. **2** Some Pharisees reported them to Jesus: "Your disciples are breaking the Sabbath rules!" **3** Jesus said, "Really? Didn't you ever read what David and his companions did when they were hungry,

**4** how they entered the sanctuary and ate fresh bread off the altar, bread that no one but priests were allowed to eat? **5** And didn't you ever read in God's Law that priests carrying out their Temple duties break Sabbath rules all the time and it's not held against them? **6** "There is far more at stake here than religion. **7** If you had any idea what this Scripture meant - 'I prefer a flexible heart to an inflexible ritual' - you wouldn't be nitpicking like this. **8** The Son of Man is no lackey to the Sabbath; he's in charge."

**1 Corinthians 11:7-9 - 7** men and women, who far too often butt heads with each other, submit their "heads" to the Head: God. **8 9**

**Genesis 3:12, 13 - 12** The Man said, "The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it." **13** God said to the Woman, "What is this that you've done?" "The serpent seduced me," she said, "and I ate."

**Job 9:14-20; 14 - 14** "So how could I ever argue with him, construct a defense that would influence God? **15** Even though I'm innocent I could never prove it; I can only throw myself on the Judge's mercy. **16** If I called on God and he himself answered me, then, and only then, would I believe that he'd heard me. **17** As it is, he knocks me about from pillar to post, beating me up, black and blue, for no good reason. **18** He won't even let me catch my breath, piles bitterness upon bitterness. **19** If it's a question of who's stronger, he wins, hands down! If it's a question of justice, who'll serve him the subpoena? **20** Even though innocent, anything I say incriminates me; blameless as I am, my defense just makes me sound worse. If God's Not Responsible, Who Is?

**Job 24:22-25 - 22** However much they strut and flex their muscles, there's nothing to them. They're hollow. **23** They may have an illusion of security, but God has his eye on them. **24** They may get their brief successes, but then it's over, nothing to show for it. Like yesterday's newspaper, they're used to wrap up the garbage. **25** You're free to try to prove me a liar, but you won't be able to do it."

**Micah 6:6-8 - 6** How can I stand up before God and show proper respect to the high God? Should I bring an armload of offerings topped off with yearling calves? **7** Would God be impressed with thousands of rams, with buckets and barrels of olive oil? Would he be moved if I sacrificed my firstborn child, my precious baby, to cancel my sin? **8** But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously - take God seriously.

**Romans 5:12 - 12** You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in - first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death.

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