

DAY 0

BY PUTTING GOD'S
WORDS LITERALLY INTO
PRACTICE, YOU WILL FIND
THE LIFE GOD HAS
MADE FOR YOU.

#REDLETTERCHALLENGE

September 21, 2020

Hymn: [On Christ, the Solid Rock, I Stand](#)

Jesus finishes the Sermon on the Mount, the greatest sermon ever preached, with the words recorded in [Matthew 7:24-27](#).

Jesus is saying, "If you want your house to stand up, practice what I'm preaching. Do what I say." Jesus says in Luke 11:28: "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." James, the brother of Jesus, says it even more simply in James 1:22: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

That's the big idea. Taking Jesus' words, the ones that are written in red letters in your Bible and putting them into practice. Literally. That's the very unoriginal yet revolutionary idea that's going to change not just the followers of Jesus, but

the world in which we live!

Jesus asked His followers to do many things, but He spent a good portion of His time focused on five main principles:

1 Being **2** Forgiving **3** Serving **4** Giving **5** Going

The first week (beginning today) the Red Letter Challenge introduces you to each of these five principles over the first five days. The following five weeks then focus on each of these principles for one full week.

By putting God's words into practice, you will find yourself being made more and more into the likeness of Jesus, your life becoming a more authentic imitation of His. This is what it means to be His disciple. You will be led to spend more time with the God who loves you. You will serve and sacrifice more than you ever have before. You will forgive people you never thought you would be able to. (That person may even be yourself!) You will become a more generous person. You will be bolder and more courageous in what you say and in how you live. And through the entire Challenge, you will celebrate and enjoy the life God has given you!

Another thing that will probably happen is you will fail! There may be a day missed here and there or an idea that was too hard for a particular day. If this happens to you, write down your thoughts for that day and why you struggled. You will find that perhaps you are stronger in your faith in some areas than in other areas.

Being a follower of Jesus is not always pretty, and like Jesus' original disciples, sometimes we mess up. We have forgiveness for those times and God urges us to come back to Him and keep following after Him. Whether you are experiencing success or failure, don't get frustrated. Just keep moving on.

The hope is that this will become a habit in your life, not just doing what God says for 40 days and then never thinking about it again. The practice of implementing Jesus' words in your life will become a daily occurrence for you. Habit formation isn't an overnight process. It takes a while. But you have to start somewhere, so let's start with His words and embark together as a community of faith at Trinity on the Red Letter Challenge!