

Year 8 Autumn 1 : What's so Radical about Jesus?

Radical Definition: SUPPORTING CHANGE (usually used when describing a political or social change)

Revolutionary Definition: Involved in or causing dramatic change.

Hypocrisy: Essentially hypocrisy means that we say one thing but do another.

Tradition: is how something has always been done.

Agape love is self-giving love and it is the kind of love Jesus was talking about. It gives without expecting anything in return. It puts the other person first.

Secular: not connected with religious or spiritual matters

Justice: Fairness or giving people respect

What sort of Radical do Christians believe Jesus was? He was loving, merciful, caring, non-violent, fair, self-sacrificing and just.

He helped people who were normally ignored this was radical: **“He ate with tax collectors and sinners saying “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”** Mark 2: 15-17

His radical teachings include:

Matthew 5:44 **“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you,”** This was radical because normally you would get revenge.

Matthew 5:9: **“Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God”**. This was radical because Jesus was telling his followers not to fight back.

Luke 4:18-19 ¹⁸.....” **“Because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted,”** This was radical because he was saying the poor are important and need looking after.

Jesus hated hypocrisy. He taught that if you say you love God then your actions should reflect your beliefs. This means that ... if Jesus says help the poor, you give money or time to the poor. ... if Jesus says ‘love your neighbour’ you love every last one!

Jesus taught not to judge others and to have a look at yourself before criticising others. The story of the women caught in adultery shows this teaching.

Luke 6: 42 “How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite,”



A portrait of Elizabeth Fry.

Key facts

- Elizabeth Fry was religious and wanted to help people in need.
- She is most remembered for her work helping people in prison. She visited prisons that were dark, dirty and dangerous. She believed that prisoners should be treated with kindness.
- She also set up places where homeless people could get food and a place to sleep.

