

Reasons People do Not Want the Jesus of “Church People”
9.21.25

Matthew 5:¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty?^[b] It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Luke 11:46 “Yes,” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden.

--“I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” **Mahatma Gandhi**

--“The problem with many non-Christians isn’t that they don’t know any Christians. The challenge is they do.” **Carey Nieuwhof**

I. We may have made them feel judged

Luke 18:¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: ^[d] ‘God, I thank you that I’m not like

other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth^[e] of everything I get.'

¹³ "But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, 'God, have mercy on me,^[f] a sinner!'

¹⁴ I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

II. We may have excluded from Christian circles

Luke 19: He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. 4 So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house."

6 So he quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully. 7 All who saw it began to complain, "He's gone to stay with a sinful man."

III. We have confused them with double standards.

Romans 7:18 ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do.

IV. We may not be showing real love and compassion.

John 13:35 ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Col 4: ⁵ Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

V. We have pushed them into a spiritual decision

John 6 ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws^[a] him, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Close:

„“You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.”

Jesus