

The RED Letters

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“I love Jesus, but not the church.” In recent years, a number of Christian authors have diagnosed this sentiment at work in our post-Christian culture. The following arrangement of the words of Jesus is your opportunity to encounter the real Jesus through the words He actually spoke. Today it’s not uncommon to hear somebody say: “*My Jesus wouldn’t say that.*” Or “*My Jesus isn’t like that.*” How do you know? Do you have the right to create Jesus in your own image, or is it instead our privilege to get to know the Jesus Who actually came into this world for us? And what better way to do that than through His own words? Printing the words of Jesus in red has been a feature of Bible translations for over 100 years. It was inspired, as you might expect, from the symbolism of the **blood** of Christ shed for you. As others have said before, I pray that the “**Red Letters**” might become the “read letters.”

In the **Red Letters** you are going to find that Jesus makes absolutely exclusive claims. He is not content to be known as a good moral teacher or a prophet. He is the Son of God and the Son of Man. He is the One Who has the authority to forgive sins and retain sins; to challenge church leaders and to redefine commandments; to lay down His life and to take it up again. Examine His claims, let Him speak to you in His own words, and discover the Jesus who actually came into this world for you; to live for you, to die for you and to rise again so that you too can rise to be with Him forever.

If you are reading this on your own, consider inviting somebody else to experience it with you, whether with a spouse, your family or a small group. Of course, many of the **Red Letters** could cross into multiple categories, and many would stand on their own. Some will surprise you. Some may shock you, horrify you, challenge you. Others will comfort you, strengthen you, and give you hope. Take each of the **Red Letters** slowly and deliberately. Jesus is speaking to you. What if He really meant the things He said? What if you decided to live as if He did?