

Follow Jesus (Not Your Heart)

Matthew 16:21–25 (black Bible page 822; Children’s Bible page 1184)

“It’s graduation season! Can you imagine Jesus giving a commencement address? Let’s see...”

About the series: *Keep Christianity Weird*.

- weird = suggesting the supernatural + strangely countercultural
- Today: Would Jesus give a weird commencement address?

Let’s listen to Steve Jobs’ famous 2005 Stanford commencement address:

- “Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life. Don’t be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people’s thinking. Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to **follow your heart** and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.”
- Why does this sound different than Jesus? Let’s look at “**the heart**.”

[1] The popular view of the heart, which Steve Jobs affirms: the heart is **findable, infallible, good, and independent**

- *Findable* (within). You look inside you, and you know your heart when you find it
- *Infallible*. The heart knows! Jobs says somehow the heart already knows what you truly want to become. It knows already.
- *Good*. Jobs implies, not does it only know, but it should be followed because it is right.
- *Independent*. Don’t be trapped by dogma or others’ opinions, Jobs says. That’s why you must look to your inner voice, which is free and independent and sovereign.

It’s like a torch guiding you through a dark cave!

What shall we think of all this?

[2] Jesus’ view of the heart:

- “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Luke 12:34)
 - What is your treasure? = What do you value? What do you dream of having? Or if you have it already, what would devastate you if you lost it?
 - The attached heart. Attached to what it wants, it desires, it needs (-- and *not* independent and sovereign).
- “For each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:44-45)
 - If you really want to know your heart, to find it, you find it in your *words*.
 - And that’s not necessarily a good thing... “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.” (Matthew 15:18-19)

[3] Follow Jesus

- “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24-25)
- And what does this look like?

And any last words about the heart? Consider Matthew 11:29, 22:37; John 14:27, 16:33