



## Week 3: **WHAT DID JESUS TEACH?**

Christ's followers would become known as the Way. Their community was more than just a group of people who shared religious beliefs. They were a group of people that embodied a new way of living. The credibility of the gospel would rest on the integrity of their lives. For they were now to be the body of Christ. Jesus would live through them.

-- Shane Claiborne, *Jesus for President*

When asked why he did not consider becoming a Christian, Gandhi answered that he loved Jesus and His teachings, but he could not identify with Christendom as a whole because it generally does not follow Jesus. He was right. Christians are among the only people in the world who do not see Jesus and his teachings as clearly nonviolent.

-- Dale W. Brown, *Biblical Pacifism*

It should be obvious by now that violence, and not Christianity, is the real religion of America. This is why it cannot be stressed too much: love of enemies has, for our time, become the litmus test of authentic Christian faith.

-- Walter Wink, *Jesus & Non-Violence*

Five years ago, I came to believe in Christ's teaching, and my life suddenly changed. ...

As I read and reread the Sermon on the Mount I suddenly understood what I had missed, and what the church had misunderstood for 1800 years. I understood that Christ says just what he means when he says "Resist not evil". These words, understood in their direct and simple meaning, were for me truly a key opening everything else.

-- Leo Tolstoy, *What I Believe*

The rejection of war is not an optional ethical issue. Rather, it is the clearest indication of the church's calling to be a community free from nationalist and other forms of domination.

-- Richard Deats, *Active Nonviolence: A Way of Life, A Strategy for Change*

The cross is not a detour or a hurdle on the way to the kingdom, nor is it even the way to the kingdom; it is the kingdom come.

-- John Howard Yoder, *The Politics of Jesus*

Thereby shall also fall away from us the diabolical weapons of violence – such as sword, armour, and the like, and all of their use to protect friends or against enemies – by virtue of the word of Christ: "you shall not resist evil".

-- The Schleitheim Confession (1527)

**Blessed are the peacemakers.**

~ **Jesus of Nazareth**