
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 7, Bible Truth 3

The Case of the Do's and Don'ts Matthew 5,6,22

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. "Do this! Don't do that!" The teachers of God's law gave the people so many rules. Besides the Ten Commandments, they counted 613 Do's and Don't's in God's Word to obey. Then, they added even more extra rules that weren't in the Bible at all. No one could keep them all!
2. Then, Jesus came. "Will JESUS obey all those Do's and Don'ts laws and the Pharisees' extra rules? Will He tell US to obey them?" the people wondered. One day, on a mountain high above the Sea of Galilee, Jesus answered their questions.
3. "Some people LOOK like they obey God's laws, but in their hearts, they are angry, jealous or hateful," Jesus said. "What goes on inside your heart breaks God's laws, too," Jesus explained. "God knows the sin hiding there. Truly obeying God's laws comes from the heart, with love."
4. As Jesus later said: "Love the LORD with all your heart, mind, and strength. Love others --even your enemies-- as much as you love yourself. Treat them as you want them to treat you. If you love like this, you will be obeying all of God's laws. This is what God's laws are all about."
5. What did the people think as they climbed down the mountain that day? Jesus had given them less rules to follow, but they were much harder to obey. Could they ever love God and others with sinful hearts like theirs?
6. No, they could not, (and neither can we). But praise God for sending Jesus! He came to fulfill God's Laws. Jesus COULD love this way. And as the Savior, He WOULD forgive God's people's sins and help them love this way, too!
7. You see, Jesus didn't just come to TELL people how to live out God's laws. But, to DO it, HIMSELF. Yes, Jesus lived out God's laws perfectly by loving God and others as we all should. He is the perfect Son of God who never disobeyed God, no matter how hard it was.
8. The teachers of God's law hated what Jesus taught. "Let's get rid of Him," they decided, and put Jesus on a cross to die. But what good Jesus did on that cross! He gave His perfect life as the full payment for God's people's sins. Now, they COULD please God. Not with their lives, but with His.
9. Jesus died and was buried that sad day, but did He stay there? No, He did not! On Day Three, He rose from the dead. Jesus had beaten sin and death for God's people.
10. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His followers. "I'm going to heaven, but I will send the Holy Spirit to live in your hearts," Jesus told them. "He'll give you love for God and others. He'll help you your whole life until you come home to live with Me," Jesus promised.
11. As He promised, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts. Together, they praised God. Jesus had lived a perfect life of love and given it on the cross to save them. Now, He had sent the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and help them live out God's laws by loving God and others.
12. But the best is yet to come for God's people. One day, they'll live with God in heaven, and their lives will be free from sin forever. Always loving and obeying God. Always loving one another. We can become God's people when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.