

Have you noticed what silly things we sometimes say? How about this – You go up to someone who is sitting beside an empty chair; you point to the empty seat and say, “Is anyone sitting here?” How often is it that an invisible person occupies an empty seat?



Here is another one – You say to someone, “Sorry, I am not able to come on Friday as I am going to John Evan’s funeral.” Reply – “Oh, has he died?” I doubt if we would be attending his funeral if he was still alive!



Here is one that has become very popular recently as we leave someone or as we finish a telephone conversation. “Cheerio. See you later.” Actually, we have no intention of seeing them later.

My thoughts turned to Jesus.
Did He say silly things? I think

that He did, but usually for a very definite purpose.

On one occasion Jesus was talking about judging the actions of others. He told those to whom He was speaking, “Why do you see the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye but do not notice the plank that is in your own eye?” What an exaggeration! He was not only telling them that they should not be judging others, but also, that what they themselves were doing was far worse. Think of the comparison between a bit of sawdust and one of those huge heavy planks that are used on scaffolding.

*dude, i think i got
something in my
eye...*

*hey, don't worry,
i'll help you get
it out.*



One day a rich man came to Jesus to ask Him about eternal life. The man felt that he had done everything that he could to be a good person and secure a place in Heaven, but Jesus knew that the man loved his money above everything else and said to him, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.” The idea of a camel with its humps and

bumps going through the eye of a needle seems to be a very stupid illustration, but it is as if Jesus is saying that the thought of a rich man who loves his money, going to heaven is just as stupid. In this case it looks as if the man was keeping all of his money for himself and not using some of it to help others. There is nothing wrong with having loads of money, but the problem is when that money becomes more important than God.

Years later as we read some of these sayings of Jesus we are often amused by them, but, it is because they are so ridiculous that we remember them.

Sometimes Jesus said things to encourage an increase in faith. How silly does this sound – “I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, “Go throw yourself into the sea” and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.” Can you imagine yourself standing at the bottom of Snowdon and telling the mountain to go into the sea? Again Jesus is using exaggeration to make a point. He is trying to encourage an increase in faith. It is no good praying half-heartedly for something and then expecting an answer. Jesus wants us to really believe that what we are praying for will become a reality.



There is an account in the Bible of Jesus feeding 5,000 men – plus women and children, so probably about 10,000 altogether – with five loaves and two fish. I would say that there were a number of reasons why Jesus asked His disciples to do this. Here are some of the reasons that come to my mind; maybe you can think of others.



**** Jesus was a man full of compassion and feeling for people so did not wish to see them hungry. We are told that they all ate and were satisfied. What a miracle!**

**** To stretch the faith of the disciples; after all, He knew that in the future they would be the ones who would carry on His work. I would love to have known their thoughts as they looked at the one basket of food and then at the sea of faces in front of them; also how the food multiplied in the baskets as they went around the crowd.**

**** To show the crowd who He really was.**

**** To show that nothing was an impossibility for Him.**

One of the things that most amazes me when I think about our PA systems, is how all of those people could hear Jesus and He did not even have a microphone!

I am sure that most of us have heard at some time or other about Peter getting out of the boat and walking on the sea to Jesus. It is sad that many times this event is used to show the lack of faith that Peter had and yet I reckon that his faith in Jesus must have been tremendous to even get out of the boat and take a few steps on the sea. I think I would have stayed in the boat! Jesus was very clever in that He did a number of things by this one act. The disciples were already battling against a storm but they were also terrified when they saw Jesus walking on the water and thought that they were seeing a ghost. What a combination of fears. Jesus assured them of His presence and calmed them down. He had shown them visibly that He was walking on the water Himself before asking Peter to do the same so they had seen that something impossible had become a possibility with Jesus. Notice too that Peter did not sink as soon as he got out of the boat, but, had already walked on the sea towards Jesus. How about that for strong faith!



The other thing He did was to challenge Peter and increase the faith that he already had. Peter was the only one to take up the challenge and have a go! Wherever we are in our spiritual relationship with Jesus, He is always there to challenge us and draw us closer to Himself. Jesus shows us in this that He is able to do anything – even when it appears to be something that is an impossibility. He wants us to trust Him; to trust Him with our lives, our families, our jobs and in everything that we do. Peter had to trust Jesus in order to accomplish what he was asked to do. The more we trust Jesus with our lives, the greater our dependence on Him and the closer will become our relationship. We were not created to live our lives independently and do exactly as we would wish to do without any thought of a Divine Creator who desires to be part of our lives.

Related Bible readings:-

Plank in the eye Matthew 7: 1 – 3

Camel through the eye of a needle Luke 18: 18 – 27

Move a mountain Mark 11: 23 – 24

Feeding of 5,000 Matthew 14: 15 – 21

Peter walking on water Matthew 14: 23 – 33

Silly sayings or Very sensible sayings???