



Field Guide

HARDLINE

A Study of the Hard Sayings of Jesus Christ



LeaderTrekks

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Opening Thoughts...

This book is about habits and vision. We want you to begin to develop habits that will make you a fully-equipped follower of Christ. This equipping will give you the tools to seek God and His vision for your life. We want you to leave this trip with a spiritual work ethic and daily commitment to seeking the One who seeks you.

A fully-equipped follower of Christ has the habit of personal daily Bible study, prayer journaling, and growth journaling. These habits are important because they lead to vision. God must have your time in order to get your heart. When we commit our time to Him, He speaks to us and that voice is the source of our vision. Vision will not come overnight. We need to be patient as God shapes and molds us. But, remember, without His vision for our lives we are lost.

This trip is a great place to encounter God in a new way. It's a chance for you to seek Him and His vision for your life. It's an opportunity to experience His power through your teammates. When you invest in this book, there will be a return on that investment. However, before you can experience the rewards, you must be willing to do the work and take the risk of being vulnerable. The difference between those who do great things and those who talk about great things is hard work. Commit yourself to doing the hard work of this book. Be willing to risk. Use this tool to get the most out of your trip. Ask the Lord to do great things in your life. Ask Him to use you for His glory. And most of all...

Stay faithful!

**"Do not let what you cannot do
interfere with what you can do."**

John Wooden

Jesus and the Hardline

In the world today there are subjects that are off-limits. Subjects, that if referred to, must be so general that they do not make anyone feel as though they are wrong or in need of any change. What is right for one group of people is not applicable to another, especially on the subject of God. This type of behavior leads to confusion and the creation of "gray areas". Gray areas create a place where we can agree to be comfortable and allow for a completely open attitude toward thoughts about who God might be and what he desires, as long as they do not require anything of us or make us feel inadequate. With no standards or ultimate truth, the grey area increases developing a haze in which to live our lives in accountability with nothing but personal tradition and good feelings. Jesus can be looked upon during these times as only the embodiment of love and acceptance. This is dangerous territory.

Jesus Christ walked the earth during a time where, because of man, things had become unclear concerning God, not unlike today. His statements floored the Pharisees who thought of themselves as the ones who knew God best. His actions drew the breath away from people around Him, even His closest followers. Jesus was in a word, abrupt. He saw things black and white; He had no time for gray areas. Being fully God, Jesus saw the heart of man, His vision was unclouded by the world and unbound from human politics.

The same Jesus that welcomed children and healed the lame also drew the hard line.

He is the same one John the Baptist described sifting us with a winnowing fork, taking what was His and burning the chaff. At all times, Jesus spoke the truth as though wielding a sword against those in need of sharpening. He did not entertain the thoughts of idle men, only the greatness of the Kingdom of God. Jesus was courageous and unashamed as he taught lesson after lesson that shook the crowds around Him. He made it clear that He came to seek and save THE LOST, not your feelings.

Now change the words from the past tense to the present, because Jesus lives and teaches the same things today that He did then, He is still drawing a hard line. Reading through Jesus' words can make you clear your throat, cock your head, shift about in your seat, drop your jaw, all while understanding conviction and grace at the same time. Jesus is still fighting to help you grow, demanding that you obey out of a heart that is dedicated to the Father, comforting the broken, and exposing sin. He stands defiant against the world today on the hard line of truth, just as He did in the face of the Pharisees.

Jesus is calling us to live differently, calling us to draw a hard line.

