

RANDY HARRIS

LIVING JESUS

Doing What Jesus Says
in the Sermon on the Mount



Living Jesus: Doing What Jesus Says in the Sermon on the Mount

Randy Harris , Greg R. Taylor

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The Sermon on the Mount is more than great ideas by a great teacher. It is a way of life. Randy Harris invites you not just to understand these great teachings but to live them in ways you never before imagined.

Living Jesus: Doing What Jesus Says in the Sermon on the Mount Details

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Justin Muery says

Challenging and eye-opening

A unique intertwining of biblical study and practical application. I want to do my best to live out Jesus' teachings after every chapter and at the conclusion.

Byron Fike says

I read this book twice this year since we were using it as the basis for our church's study of Jesus' sermon on the mount. I found it easy to read, yet challenging (in a good way) to apply. It is best read in community. Our church office staff read a chapter each week and discussed it in our staff meetings. I would then discuss the chapter again with my Sunday School class after watching the companion dvd. The material was written with a focus for such discussions and lends itself well to helping people wrestle with what it means to follow Jesus' teaching. The suggested exercises at the end of each chapter give practical direction in making application of the lesson. I would highly recommend this for any group desiring to know Jesus better and live the life he has taught us to live.

Mike says

Loved his previous books, but this one was lacking. Judging - everyone does it? Please. That doesn't make it right. Weak. There IS good stuff in the book, but overall it's lacking a focus on love, which Jesus was all about. Very disappointed in this book, especially after reading his others.

Daryl Miller says

Great book. It looked at the overall principles of the Sermon on the Mount and gave very practical ideas for implementing it.

Darrin Niday says

I thought it was a good study on the sermon on the mount, I liked that he started at the end for the first chapter, pretty basic, but great for newer Christians. Randy is very sound in his belief and I look forward to reading more of his books.

Linda says

I received a copy of this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

The author explains, "So I'm not attempting to write a scholastic book on the Sermon on the Mount. I'm trying to provide a field manual for living the life Jesus wants for us."

Katherine says

- I received this book through LibraryThing Early Reviews in exchange for an honest review -

I enjoyed this book, I did. Taking a look at the Sermon on the Mount is an idea I really like, and I love the emphasis on actually living out the teachings in this "sermon." How do these teachings apply to our life, how we are to live, how we are meant to treat others along the way? This book addresses just that. We are told on page 11 that "this book is not just a study of the Sermon on the Mount. It's a way of discovering what Jesus says so we can do what Jesus says."

I enjoyed the chapter titled "You Are Blessed," where the author talks about how Jesus started his teaching with blessings, instead of starting with the commands, showing that we are blessed and loved without having to do something first to earn it. The way the author puts it is by saying (on page 32) "You're trying to make yourself loved rather than doing it out of response to the love that God's already given."

My absolute favorite quote from the book, though, can be found on page 129, where the author says :
"When you follow Jesus Christ it will never lead you to hurt or marginalize any group of people; when that happens, that's not just bad living - that's a result of bad doctrine. True teaching doesn't do that. It loves. It embraces. It transforms. It never humiliates. It never abuses. It never puts down."

I loved so much of this book. It really was an interesting read, and I'm glad to have read it. I would recommend it to any Christian.

Rating : 4 stars

Brent Soderstrum says

I am a big Randy Harris fan. In this book he covers in 12 chapters Jesus most famous speech-the Sermon on the Mount. I have read the words many times but Randy made me look at it differently. He also encourages you to live out what Jesus was conveying to us. Hence the title of the book-Living Jesus. At the end of each chapter is a suggestion of how you can live out what is brought out in each chapter.

My men's Bible study group covered it in six weeks. We used the DVD that goes along with the book. Let me warn you that the DVD is really Randy stating orally almost exactly what he has set out on the pages of the book.

Bledar says

Enjoyed reading the book and it was even better when I heard Randy present the book's summary live at Harding Lectureship 2013.

David Sanders says

I have heard Randy Harris speak several times. He is definitely one of the great Christian thinkers of our generation. This book's thesis is how Christians would behave if they truly tried to live by the Sermon on the Mount. Excellent book. Deep thoughts. It makes you think and, more importantly, it will challenge you to examine your life.

Michael Decamp says

This is an excellent study devotional book covering the Sermon on the Mount. At first, I was concerned that it was going to present the message of the sermon in a way that felt both imperative and yet also impossible. I must admit that I was pleasantly surprised. Randy Harris broke the message down into the core message in a way that I had not previously experienced, and left me hopeful that despite my personal failings, I could truly live it out. Things like commitment, integrity, and love are the base ingredients which Jesus weaves through the various practical instructions. I'd recommend this book to individuals and small groups alike. It is worth the investment.

Matthew says

Great little book. We used it as a small group discussion guide (with the DVD) for a small group meet up in my home. It helped with discussion and got us into the Sermon on the Mount in a productive way.

Robert Dorough, Jr. says

We talk a lot *about* the "Sermon on the Mount," but it's not often we see people *living* it. This is why books like *Living Jesus* are important, helping us learn to put into practice some of the most difficult exhortations in the Bible. Randy Harris writes, "I'm not attempting to write a scholarly book on the Sermon on the Mount. I'm trying to provide a field manual for living the life Jesus wants for us" (12). Harris urges his readers to ignore the perspective of "Jesus raising the bar so high that we can only try and fail and so learn a lesson about the grace of God," stating, "This isn't 'Suggestions on the Mount'" (13). We are encouraged to take seriously the words of Christ and live them. "This is not only a life that should be lived. It's a life that *can* be lived" (22).

Harris breaks the text down into twelve sections, providing practical commentary on each passage, after which several discussion questions are provided for group study, as well as a few challenging examples for living each section. The book concludes with a description of the covenant Harris has made with a group of

college students to take seriously the Sermon on the Mount, to memorize it, and hold one another accountable to living it daily. The “Monk Warriors” of Tau Chi Alpha (“Toughest Christians Alive”) may seem a bit gimmicky—we *are* talking about impressionable college students—but the journey they share is provided as an *example* of how to “live Jesus,” not *the* way. Further aid comes by way of suggested reading material and the DVD series by Harris upon which *Living Jesus* is based (not having seen the series myself, I cannot comment on its effectiveness, though I would recommend the book on its own).

One consideration I offer is realizing an holistic approach to living the Sermon on the Mount after reading *Living Jesus* and attempting to live particular sections at a time as they are suggested. Harris has provided a welcome alternative to the boring, redundant, and ill-approached sermons on the “Sermon” many of us have heard all our lives, but it is only a stepping stone in actually living the life into which Jesus calls his disciples. It is good to spend separate periods of time learning to live out all the different avenues talked about by Christ, but they also must not be used as substitutes for the final stage of holistic living. Indeed, it is time to “live Jesus.”

*Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from ACU Press/Leafwood Publishers as part of their ACU Press Bookclub Program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

S says

Very good read, walks you through the Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount. Geared more toward's men, but applies to women just as easily. Encourages action and deeds over words.

Meagan says

I am leading a Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount, using the Life Guides curriculum. This book is a great supplement to that material. I appreciate that this book is thought-provoking and challenging while including additional questions, yet it does not feel really heavy or as if it's trying to be a commentary.

This would be a great resource for someone who wants to do an independent study of the Sermon on the Mount or who needs supplemental material for leading a Bible study.
