
Mission 119 Ministries

**DECONSTRUCTING CALVINISM
EPISODE 6: WHY DID JESUS SAY
THAT?**

Hutson Smelley

www.sermonaudio.com/forestbranch

EPIISODE GOAL

- Explore some things Jesus said that make no sense for a TULIP Jesus to say**
 - Consider why this data is ignored and why that is a dangerous hermeneutic?**
-

PROOF TEXT FOLLY

- **There are settings where it is appropriate to offer a proof text or two for our point of view**
 - **But when we build a whole house out of a few boards and nails it doesn't work**
 - **Not only does context too often get ignored**
 - **But on close inspection we usually find that no more than a few verses are being used to shape the whole theology of the Bible**
 - **Once the system is accepted, the devotee sees it on every page AND DOES NOT REALLY CONSIDER ALL THE DATA**
-

WHAT WE SHOULD EXPECT

- **If TULIP accurately describes what the whole Bible says on the matter of soteriology we should expect...**
 - **Some supporting Old Testament verses (Calvinists obviously include some OT verses in proof texts lists but they are so far off the mark as to not be taken seriously)**
 - **All of Jesus' teachings to be consistent with TULIP**
 - **The same of all NT writers**
 - **TULIP advocates to seriously deal with all the data**
-

WHY DID JESUS SAY THAT?

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man has come to seek and to save the lost.

WHY DID JESUS SAY THAT?

- **It was after going to the home of Zacchaeus and pronouncing that “Today salvation has come to this house” that Jesus gave his famous mission statement**
 - **“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost”**
 - **It was recently argued to me that this is yet more evidence in favor of Calvinism because Jesus is doing the seeking and saving**
 - **But who is Jesus seeking to save?**
-

WHO IS LOST?

- **Luke 19:10** hearkens back to the parables in Luke 15 about a “lost” coin, “lost” sheep, and a “lost” son
 - **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)**
 - **The “lost” is everyone that has not yet exercised faith in Christ**
 - **In the TULIP framework, the lost are all the non-elect plus the elect that have not yet been given faith**
 - **But why is Jesus purposed to seek and save non-elect people?**
-

WHY DID JESUS SAY THAT?

Matthew 19:23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “I assume you: It will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” **25** When the disciples heard this, they were utterly astonished and asked, “Then who can be saved?” **26** But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

WHY IS IT HARDER FOR RICH FOLKS?

- **After his dialogue with the rich young man who walked away after being told to give away his possessions and follow Jesus, Jesus provided his commentary to the disciples**
 - **He said it is difficult for rich people to get into the kingdom, but why?**
 - **From a TULIP perspective, only elect people (rich, poor, middle-class) will be saved and they have zero role in their salvation as even their faith is given to them, so it is absurd to speak of relative difficulty between rich and poor**
-

WHY IS IT HARDER FOR RICH FOLKS?

- **Calvinists usually focus on Matt. 19:26 “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”**
 - **Non-Calvinists don’t dispute that God does the saving, or that He seeks the lost (see Luke 19:10 we already considered)**
 - **But this verse says nothing about election or irresistible grace**
 - **Contextually, this is further commentary on the episode with the rich young man, in which Jesus did some “pre-evangelism” by showing the young man the error in his theology, and has nothing to do with TULIP**
-

THE TAKEAWAY

- **We repeatedly find Jesus saying things a TULIP Jesus would never say BECAUSE it undermines TULIP**
 - **Whatever our persuasion about what the Bible teaches on salvation, or any other doctrine, we must honestly consider and account for all of the data**
 - **Bible followers are obligated to re-assess, tweak or even overhaul what they believe when those beliefs create contradictions in the Bible**
 - **I challenge you to just start in Matthew 1 and read forward and look for Jesus statements that a TULIP Jesus would never say**
 - **In some future episodes I will highlight some more of these**
-