

# Journey Enews

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## Barking Up The Wrong Tree by Bobby Duncan

Even Jesus was misunderstood and misjudged by others. Here are two Bible occurrences where a hasty, inaccurate conclusion was reached about Jesus' words and actions.

“‘Roll the stone aside,’ Jesus told them. But Martha protested, ‘Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.’ Jesus responded, ‘Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?’ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.’ Then Jesus shouted, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, ‘Unwrap him and let him go!’” John 11:39-44 NLT



“Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with such scum?’ When Jesus heard this, he said, ‘Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.’ Then he added, ‘Now go and learn the meaning of of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.’” Mt 9:10-13 NLT

Never doubt Jesus' words. This is a person barking up the wrong tree. Jesus' words were often misjudged by others. When doubt creeps in, we are misinformed regarding Jesus and His words in the Bible. If you have a Jesus relationship, never drop the ball in regards to your faith in the power of Jesus' words. You can believe what Jesus says in the Bible. It is Truth, always. “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Two common questions appear in the Bible when people are doubting Jesus' integrity: 1) WHY are you late? 2) WHO invited them?

Let's clarify what the Bible actually tells us. Jesus is never late. For anything. Not even at a funeral or cemetery. He reminded Mary and Martha it is never too late. Jesus changes everything. Even the death of Lazarus. He can (He did and He will again) raise all the dead in Christ. Believe Jesus' words.

In the second Bible illustration the religious insiders were appalled by the dinner guests welcomed around Matthew and Jesus. We are misguided when prejudging the value of messy people to God. Jesus often taught that there are no insignificant people (Jn 3:16). He welcomed everyone. People are valuable. Your life is meaningful. This includes YOU and ME. Jesus says so. The lost and lonely were included by Jesus and His disciples. Jesus has room for more. So should we (Mt 28:19-20).

Less barking and more loving people like Jesus each day — good plan. Go God.