

Screens: What Would Jesus Say?

A [modern Christian](#) asked Jesus if it was right to look at screens all day.

Jesus inquired, “What images are on them.”

His follower explained, “Everything. From work and news to entertainment and social media. Online shopping and travel to religion and science. Pretty much all of human knowledge and experience.”

“Good and evil?” questioned the Lord.

“Both” answered the man.

“More one than the other?” Jesus probed.

“Depends,” answered the believer pensively. “Much of the traffic seems neutral. Work and emails, calls and messaging, news and information. [Relationship](#) and [entertainment](#) wise, pretty much anything goes.”

Christ nodded. “Let’s start with work and emails. Everyone’s gotta make a living and relate to others. Still, what portion of screen time promotes thankfulness for God’s [unprecedented blessings](#).”

“Not much,” admitted the man.

“How about developing ways of [sharing the wealth](#) with the impoverished?

“Less.”

“Ever hear My story of the “[Sheep and the Goats](#)?”

“Yes.”

“Keep that in mind. What percentage of messaging either directly or indirectly encourages [worldliness](#) and [entitlement](#), [temptation](#) and [sin](#) over [sanctification](#) and [thankfulness](#), [repentance](#) and [good deeds](#)?

“Most” admitted the man.

“For millennia you’ve had [My warning](#), ‘Let me tell you something: Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you. There will be a time of reckoning. Words are powerful; take them seriously. Words can be your salvation. Words can also be your damnation.’”

“Sorry.”

The [glorified Christ](#) continued, “You mentioned news and information. Big money in both?”

“Plenty of fame and fortune.”

“Various points of view?”

“Across every format and platform, 24/7.” Though lately legacy media, politics

and the global corporations have formed an iron triangle of me-ism. Or worse.

“How often does mass and social media reinforce My revelation that [unrest and war](#), [natural and man made disasters](#), injustice and [abortion](#) should occasion mass [brokenness](#) and [intercession](#)? Starting with [My own people](#).”

“Almost never.”

“You mentioned online shopping and travel. Big business?”

“Trillions a year.”

“As for news and information, given billions suffer from global injustice and war, natural and man-made disasters, wouldn’t you agree that the almighty consumer culture seems [selfish](#) at best?”

“Suppose so,” confesses the man.

“You’d know so if the roles were reversed. Which I warned will be the case in the [Rich Man and Lazarus](#). Not a parable, it’s the only conversation between humans in the afterlife recorded in Scripture.

“A lot to think about.”

“When? Sight and sound are always and everywhere. Reality dwarfs your ancestor’s dreams. Media dwarfs reality. You don’t just plug in. You are in. Even if you’re ever quiet and alone, you’re not. Lyrics and lines, melodies and scenes from a thousand different songs and shows seep into your hearts and minds. As do the ideas and desires they inspire. Speaking of which, you said when it comes to [relationship](#) and [entertainment](#), pretty much anything goes.”

“Yes.”

“Including [immorality](#), soft and hard core [porn](#)?”

“Always and everywhere.”

“Violence and profanity?”

“Continual.”

“[Horror](#), [gore](#) and [demonic](#) programing?”

“Same,” the man answers feeling sick.

Jesus ended the Q&A. “Anything you care to add?”

“There is some good.”

“Go on.”

“Lots of religious content.”

“Enough to turn [Churchianity](#) into a “[house of prayer](#)?” Particularly the kind of quantity and [quality of prayer](#) that might make a difference?

“No. Lot of family stuff though.”

“Enough to move even [My own people](#) to become genuine [praying parents](#),

daily [travailing](#) for the [salvation](#) of at least their own [children and grandchildren](#)?

“No.” There are some cool cat videos...

“Laughter may not really be the best medicine at this point. As I warned My own generation, whom by comparison were toddlers when it comes to sin, “Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.”

“Pretty harsh,” mourned the believer.

“I’ve said [harsher](#).”

“So what do You want?”

“[Honesty](#). You’re clearly living in the [best and worst of times](#). I want My house filled with thanks for the [unprecedented blessings](#) and [intercession](#) for the [unparalleled evils](#). The current and [coming challenges](#) require more than [singing](#) Jesus loves me this I know, [assuming salvation](#) and exchanging [presumption for faith](#). Nothing short of [radical discipleship](#) leading to a complete transformation into a [New Creation](#) has ever stood the [test of eternity](#). That goes double for generations facing ubiquitous and growing bombardment of subtle and gross [temptation](#) and [deception](#), [entitlement](#) and [sin](#). [Prayerlessness](#) and [Biblical illiteracy’s](#) never’s cut it. Certainly not now with Divine [justice](#) and [judgment](#) looming.

“Understood.” the modern Christian almost quaked in response. So...what about screens?”

“Render to screens what belongs to screens and to God what belongs to God.”