



New Testament  
hero

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## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Reed contends that, “Nowhere in the New Testament does he [Jesus] advocate for the government to punish the rich or even to use tax money to help the poor. Nor does he promote the ideas of state ownership of businesses or central planning of the economy,” and that, “Jesus advises us to be of ‘generous spirit:’ to show kindness, to assist the widow and the orphan. But he clearly means this to be our responsibility, not the government’s.” Do you agree with the premise that the redistribution of wealth (socialism) is a punishment for wealthy people? Why or why not? Why should the responsibility for helping the less fortunate be the responsibility of individuals and private sector organizations, such as churches and other non-profits, and even private, for-profit companies, rather than the responsibility of the government? Explain.
- Mr. Reed goes on to share with us that, “In addition to the Parable of the Talents, Jesus offers his Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. In it, a landowner hires some laborers to pick grapes. Near the end of the day, he realizes he needs more workers to get the job done. To recruit them, he agrees to pay a full day’s wage for just one hour of work. When one of the laborers who had worked an entire day complains, the landowner answers, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money?’ That is a testament to the principles of supply and demand, private property, and voluntary contracts, not socialism.” Do you agree that Jesus sharing this parable is solid evidence that he values individual freedom and merit, traits of capitalism, over blanket equality, a primary trait of socialism? Why or why not? Why do you think the laborers who had worked all day felt badly about the deal the landowner made with the extra laborers? Why do you think that socialists so vehemently and exclusively equate total equality with ‘fairness,’ rather than allowing for a broader perspective of what could be equitable, i.e. ‘fair,’ between parties involved- what if the laborers who only worked for an hour did a significantly better job than the laborers who worked all day? Wouldn’t those hour-only laborers have earned the money they contracted for just as much as the laborers who worked all day? What lessons do you think Jesus was teaching through this parable? Explain.
- Following that last point, Mr. Reed shares with us that, “Jesus never endorsed the forced redistribution of wealth. That idea is rooted in envy, something he, and the Tenth of the Ten Commandments, railed against.” Do you think that the Left’s egregious and extreme obsession with equality is rooted in envy? Why or why not?
- Further along, Mr. Reed notes that, “Jesus cared about helping the less fortunate. He never would have approved anything that undermines wealth creation. And the only thing that has ever created wealth and lifted masses of people out of poverty is free market capitalism.” Why do you think that capitalism is actually able to create wealth and lift people out of poverty, but countless examples demonstrate that socialism fails in this endeavor every time? Explain.
- At the end of the video, Mr. Reed concludes that, “[You should] Read the New Testament. The plain meaning of the text is loud and clear. Jesus was not a socialist. He couldn’t be: he loved people, not the state.” Considering the overwhelming lack of evidence, why do you think that anyone would make the claim that Jesus was a socialist? Do you think that people who would make such a claim feel compelled to attempt to bolster the appeal of socialism by having such a remarkable figure as Jesus endorse it because socialism, without (or even

with) such perceived credibility, falls so short on economic merit alone? Why or why not?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: Herts for Refugees

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Legends Salvage \$36,000 Of Abandoned Festival Gear For Refugees,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What did the volunteers with Herts for Refugees do after the Isle of Wight festival? How many people attended the festival? How much gear did the volunteers collect? What will the organization do with all of the gear that they collected? What would have happened to all of that gear if the volunteers had not collected it? How will the gear help others? How much gear do they expect to collect from the next event?
- Why do you think that it took enterprising and compassionate people to conceive of this scheme and implement it well, rather than the government? In what ways is what this group is engaging in a form of capitalism rather than a form of socialism? Explain. Do you think that Jesus would approve of this group’s efforts? Why or why not?
- What are the primary tenets of Mr. Reed’s argument in the video? Do you think that he makes a compelling argument? Why or why not?
- Why do you think that socialists value rigid equality, everyone should get the same no matter what, over freedom, people should get what they choose to earn? Explain. Instead of claiming that everyone gets to go to heaven, Jesus teaches that only those who choose to believe in him can go to heaven. Do you think that this is the sort of proposition that a socialist would make? Explain.



# QUIZ

## WAS JESUS A SOCIALIST?

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1. \_\_\_\_\_, a capitalist, probably gave away more money than anyone in human history.
  - a. Warren Buffet
  - b. Bill Gates
  - c. John D. Rockefeller
  - d. Mark Zuckerberg
  
2. What does Jesus do in the New Testament?
  - a. Advocate for the government to punish the rich.
  - b. Say to use tax money to help the poor.
  - c. Promote the idea of state ownership of businesses.
  - d. None of the above.
  
3. Jesus promoted a model of socialism when he kicked the 'moneychangers' out of the temple.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
4. Jesus telling the Parable Of The Workers In The Vineyard is a testament to \_\_\_\_\_?
  - a. the principle of supply and demand
  - b. the principle of private property
  - c. the principle of voluntary contracts
  - d. All of the above.
  
5. What is the only thing that has ever created wealth and lifted masses of people out of poverty?
  - a. Free market capitalism
  - b. Redistribution of wealth
  - c. Central economic planning
  - d. Raising taxes on the highest earners



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://dreamlandmagazine.com.au/2019/06/26/legends-salvage-36000-of-abandoned-festival-gear-for-refugees/>

## Legends Salvage \$36,000 Of Abandoned Festival Gear For Refugees



**A crew of kind-hearted charity workers has salvaged \$36,000 worth of abandoned camping equipment from the trashed grounds of England's Isle of Wight Festival this week.**

Seeing an opportunity to do good for both the environment and their fellow man, Herts for Refugees volunteers spent two days on-site saving tents, sleeping bags and other useful camping equipment from landfill.

And boy was there a lot to pick through! With more than 50,000 punters having attended the festival, the camping grounds were littered with garbage mounds, overflowing bins and deserted tents as far as the eye could see.

In total, Herts for Refugees (and their mates from Refugee Compassion and Paris Refugee Ground Support) managed to collect nearly a tonne of gear, which will be taken to those in need via the charity's van (whose name is Nelson Vandela or Vanny de Vito depending on its mood).

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A spokesperson for Herts for Refugees, said: “The phenomenon of people abandoning tents and other camping equipment has been very much in the news lately. By salvaging useable tents and sleeping bags, we can save a substantial amount from going into the ground. The reality is, the gear people abandon at festivals is literally saving lives.”

The charity will be back at it again next week at Glastonbury Festival – an event that sees 200,000 people and 2000 tonnes of potential waste come through its doors every year!

