

20 times When Jesus said “NO”?

I started to wonder: did Jesus ever say “no” to anybody? To find out, I looked through all four Gospels, and found something surprising. Jesus said “no” many times.

1. Matt 4:10- Of course, he said “no” to the devil three times when he was tempted in the desert. But he also said “no” to people around him.

2. Matt 8:18 - He said “no” to ordinary human requests. “Let me bury my father before I follow you.” *No; let the dead bury their dead.* “

3. Tell my sister to help me with the housework.” *No; she has chosen the better part.*

4. “Tell my brother to be fair with me about our inheritance.” *No.*

5. “Stay in our town a little longer.” *No.*

6. And to the Geresene demoniac who said, “Let me follow you,” Jesus said: *No, give witness to your people.*

7. Jesus even said “no” to close and loving friends. “Give my sons a special privileged place next to you.”

8. *No.* “Stop talking about your death like that.”

9. A very strong *No* to Peter: *Get thee behind me, Satan!*

10. “Tell us when the last things will occur.” *No; it’s not for you to know.*

11. “Call down fire from heaven to destroy these Samaritans who have rejected you.” A very strong *No!*

12. Jesus even said “no” to the demands of the crowds. “Work a sign for us right here and now.” *No.*

13. “Do here in your own town the things we heard you did over in Capernaum.” *No.*

14. “Give us today the bread that you gave us yesterday.” *No;*

15. *I'll give you bread from heaven.* "Oh, who wants bread from heaven? Give us the bread you gave us yesterday!" *No.*

16. And Jesus even said no to many common-sense, law-and-order kinds of requests. "Send this crowd away; they're getting hungry." *No; you feed them*

17. "Keep this crowd quiet." *No; the very rocks would cry out.*

18. "Make your followers fast like those of John the Baptist." *No; there'll be plenty of time for fasting later, but not while the bridegroom is with them.*

19. "Surely you have some answer to these accusations against you." *No.*

20. **Luke 5:8-10** Peter was overwhelmed. He knew then how holy Jesus must be, and he felt awful. Here he is, Simon Peter, just a normal guy, with normal human imperfections and failings, and there, standing right there in front of him, is Jesus, the Son of God! He couldn't stand it any more. He fell to his knees and cried out in anguish, "Please, please go somewhere else! Depart from me, Lord; I am a sinful man. Go away! Please, just go away! Leave me alone!"

Jesus then looked into Peter's eyes; into his soul. And with Peter's whole future hanging in the balance, Jesus very firmly, but tenderly and lovingly, said: "Alone? *No. Leave you? No!*"