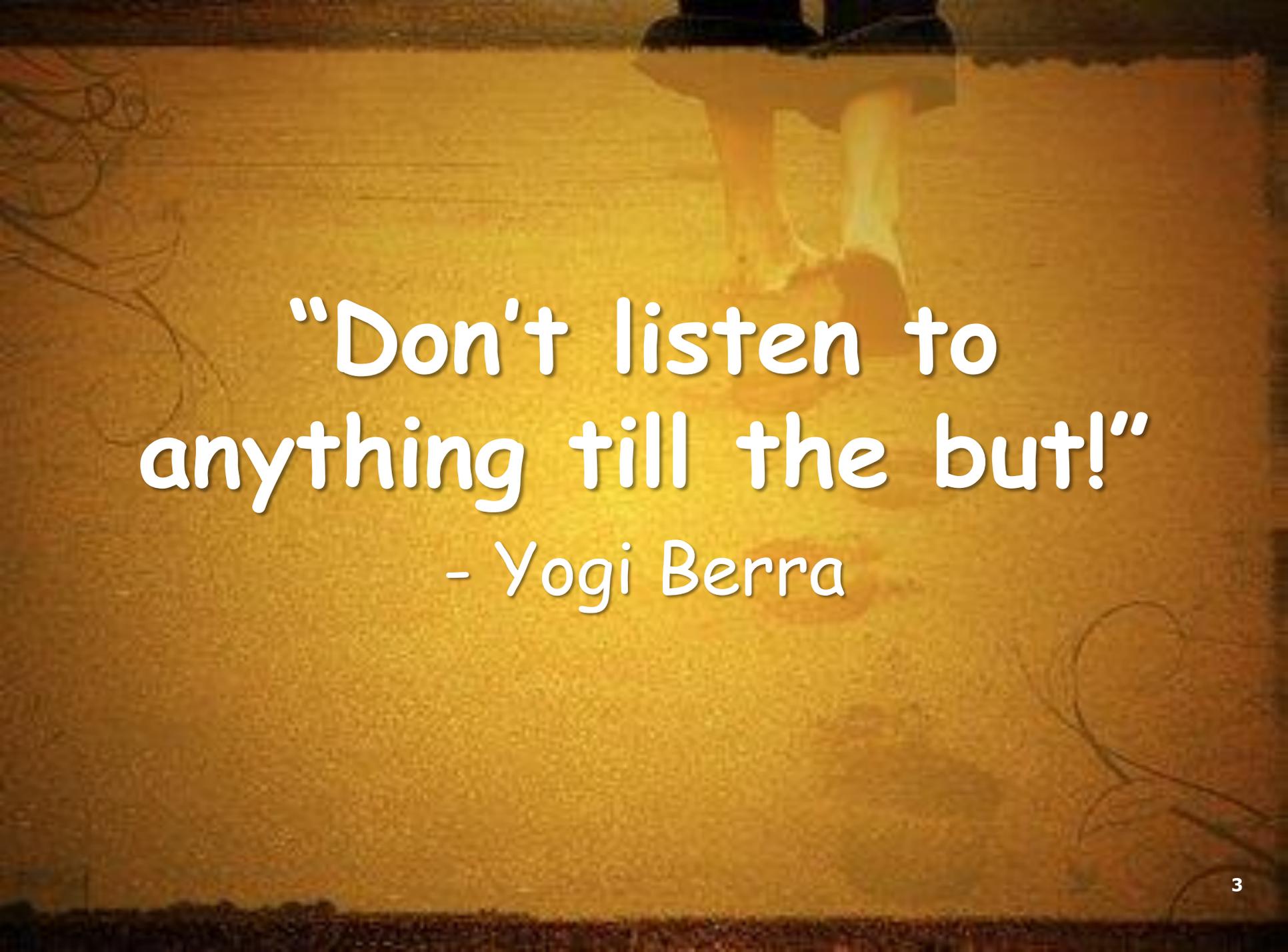


**HOW GOOD
IS
GOOD ENOUGH?**

MARK 10:17-31

- Clip – Big But



**“Don’t listen to
anything till the but!”**

- Yogi Berra

Can't you hear the
rich man in the gospel
lesson saying,
"But Jesus..."

At first hearing, this lesson reinforces a lot of conditions and preconceived notions when it comes to God and salvation.

IF

THEN

Conditional Statements

Conditional - Conditionals are formed by joining two statements with the words if and then: If p, then q.

The if-statement is the **hypothesis** and the then-statement is the **conclusion**.

Conditional statements are either true conditionals or false conditionals. A conditional is a false conditional when the hypothesis is true and the conclusion is false. A conditional can be shown to be false by using a counterexample.

*In the lessons
today we have a lot
of "If" and a lot
of implied "Then".*

Amos warns Israel that if they do justice then they will receive blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

The if-then is if you are good then you are blessed. If you do bad then you are cursed.

*Psalm 90 is a prayer
"attributed" to Moses for
deliverance from national
adversity.*

*The if-then is, if we learn
what is wise from God,
then God will come and
help us in our troubles.*

CONDITIONAL LOVE

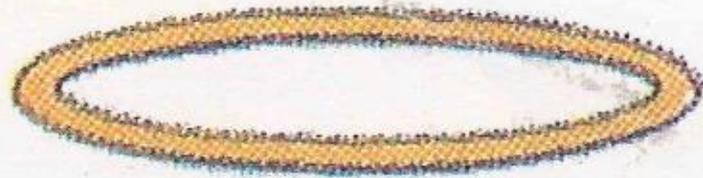
Hebrews takes this conditional understanding of God's love and turns it upside-down.

"Indeed the word of God..." (Logos) meaning Jesus Christ.

Now we have the if - then as this:
If God knows everything about us and understands our sin and we are forgiven in Christ, then we can experience grace and mercy.

Jesus takes this one step further in the Gospel.

The rich man approaches Jesus with the same pre-set conditions. If I do good then I am blessed. If I do bad then I am cursed.



HOW MUCH
CAN I GET AWAY WITH

AND STILL GO TO

HEAVEN?

Jesus isn't telling the rich man that he needs to do more. He is telling the rich man his whole understanding of how God operates is wrong.

Which is what he is telling us too!

**No one can ever
out-sin the
work of Christ
on the cross!**

The question of what we must do to inherit eternal life is flawed at the conception. We already have eternal life...God has taken care of that in Jesus Christ.

The problem is when we hear the word of grace we want to make it conditional again by adding the "If - Then clause.

the world's love says "I love you IF"
but **God's** love says "I love you **EVEN IF**"



**RELIGION SAYS:
GOD WILL LOVE US
IF WE CHANGE.**

**THE GOSPEL SAYS:
GOD'S LOVE
CHANGES US.**

“it’s not all about how we behave. It’s about discovering the living God in the Loving and dying of Jesus and learning to reflect that love ourselves into the world that needs it badly” - NT Wright

