

Reading for the sixth week: Pp. 72-89 (Q38-Q55) *Judgment, Materialism and Anxiety*

Reflection: "The completely new lifestyle Jesus developed for himself, and called upon others to practice as well, **was not for his part meant as a means to appease an angry God in an effort to win his favor. Quite the reverse.** It was because God was already active on all sides in a fatherly way that one could practice that lifestyle, for it consisted of receiving from God through the actions of others and God giving us others through one's own actions." (Robinson)

As you read take special note of **Q Sayings 44 and 48**. How do these sayings compare with the bulk of the other sayings of Jesus, especially **Q49**. Take some moments to reflect on **Q51, Q52, Q53**.

Q's Sayings about Jesus (Compare to Borg's Q)

38- The one not with me is against me, and the one not gathering with me scatters.

39- The Return of the Unclean Spirit: When the defiling spirit has left the person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting-place, and finds none. Then, it says, I will return to my house from which I came. And on arrival it finds «it» swept and tidied up. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and, moving in, they settle there. And the last «circumstances» of that person become worse than the first.

41A- The Sign of Jonah for This Generation: But, some .. were demanding from him a sign. But .. he said, .. This generation is an evil .. generation; it demands a sign, and a sign will not be given to it — except the sign of Jonah! For as Jonah became to the Ninevites a sign, so also, will the son of humanity be to this generation. (*Notice this is a judgmental Q Saying; comp to Mt. 12:40*).

41B- Something More than Solomon and Jonah: The queen of the South will be raised at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and look, something more than Solomon is here! Ninevite men will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it. For they repented at the announcement of Jonah, and look, something more than Jonah is here! (*Notice this is a judgmental Q Saying*).

42A- The Light on the Lampstand: No one light<s> a lamp and puts it in a hidden place, but on the lampstand, and it gives light for everyone in the house,.

42B- The Jaundiced Eye Darkens the Body's Light: The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is generous, your whole body is radiant; but if your eye is jaundiced, your whole body «is» dark. So if the light within you is dark, how great «must» the darkness «be»!

43A- Woes against the Pharisees: Woe for you, Pharisees, for you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and give up, justice and mercy and faithfulness. But these one had to do, without giving up those.

43B- for you purify the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are, full of plunder and dissipation. Purify, .. the inside of the cup, ... its outside ... pure.

44A- for <you> love the place of honor at banquets and, the front seat in the synagogues and accolades in the markets. Woe to you, Pharisees, for you are like indistinct tombs, and people walking on top are unaware. (*Notice this is a judgmental Q Saying, including 44B - 44D below*).

44B- Woes against the Exegetes of the Law: And, woe to you, exegetes of the Law, for <you> bind, ... burdens, and load on the backs of people, but, <you your>selves do not want «to lift», your finger to move, them. Woe to you, exegetes of the Law, for you shut the kingdom of <God> from people,; you did not go in, nor, let in those «trying to» get in.

44C- Woe to you, for you built the tombs of the prophets, but your «fore»fathers killed them. «Thus» you, witness against yourselves that, you are sons, of your «fore»fathers. ..

44D- Wisdom's Judgment on This Generation: Therefore also .. Wisdom said: I will send them prophets and sages, and «some» of them they will kill and persecute, so that «a settling of accounts for» the blood of all the prophets poured out from the founding of the world may be required of this generation, from «the» blood of Abel to «the» blood of Zechariah, murdered between the sacrificial altar and the House. Yes, I tell you, «an accounting» will be required of this generation!

45- Proclaiming What Was Whispered: Nothing is covered up that will not be exposed, and hidden that will not be known. What I say to you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear «whispered» in the ear, proclaim on the housetops.

46A- Not Fearing the Body's Death: And do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. But fear .. the one who is able to destroy both the soul and body in Gehenna.

46B- More Precious than Many Sparrows: Are not ·five, sparrows sold for ·two, cents? And yet not one of them will fall to earth without ·your Father's, «consent». But even the hairs of your head all are numbered. Do not be afraid, you are worth more than many sparrows.

47- Confessing or Denying: Anyone who may speak out for me in public, ·the son of humanity, will also speak out for him before the angels .. . But whoever may deny me in public ·will be, denied before the angels .. .

48A- Speaking against the Holy Spirit: And whoever says a word against the son of humanity, it will be forgiven him; but whoever ·speaks, against the holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him.

48B- Hearings before Synagogues: When they bring you before synagogues, do not be anxious about how or what you are to say; for ·the holy Spirit will teach, you in that .. hour what you are to say. *(Notice this is a judgmental Q Saying as well as 48A above).*

51- Free from Anxiety like Ravens and Lilies: Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you are to eat, nor about your body, with what you are to clothe yourself. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? Consider the ravens: They neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet God feeds them. Are you not better than the birds? And who of you by being anxious is able to add to one's stature a .. cubit?

52A- Observe, the lilies, how they grow: They do not work nor do they spin. Yet I tell you: Not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these. But if in the field the grass, there today and tomorrow thrown into the oven, God clothes thus, will he not much more clothe you, persons of petty faith!

53- So, do not be anxious, saying: What are we to eat? Or:, What are we to drink? ·Or:, What are we to wear? For all these the Gentiles seek; ·for, your Father knows that you need them ·all, But seek his kingdom, and ·all, these shall be granted to you.

54- Storing up Treasures in Heaven: «Do not treasure for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and gnawing deface and where robbers dig through and rob,» but treasure for yourselves treasure«s» in heaven, where neither moth nor gnawing defaces and where robbers do not dig through nor rob. For where your treasure is, there will also be your heart.

55- Looting a Strong Person: «A strong person's house cannot be looted,», «but if someone still stronger overpowers him, he does get looted.»