

IT'S A RED-LETTER Day!

HOW THE
WORDS OF JESUS
IMPACT THE HEARTS
OF WOMEN
TODAY

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READ THE GOSPELS in Forty Days!



Debbie Dupuy challenges her readers to read the Gospels through in forty days. It is easy to add another dimension to the book you are holding by following the outline on pages 157–158. Debbie displays a promotional T-shirt that says on the front, “It’s a Red-Letter Day!” On the back it says, “I may not be perfect, but Jesus thinks I’m to die for!”

DEDICATION

For Jesus. Every word is for You.

For Arvy, who believed in me and encouraged me to write this book. You are my example of true servanthood.

And for our girls, Jenna and Anna, who are loved with an everlasting love.

With special thanks:
To Peggy Coulter who inspired me to pick up my pen.

ENDORSEMENTS

Debbie Dupuy brings Jesus' words to life for all of us in *It's a Red-Letter Day!* Her classes are amazing!

Debra Neal—Florence, Alabama

It's a Red-Letter Day! is a spiritual and inspirational journey that will transform how you hear Jesus' own words! Strengthen your faith with Debbie Dupuy as you examine the purpose, the emotions, the power, and the love spoken from the lips of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Debbie's overwhelming love for the Word of God, for Jesus, and for the very souls of her fellow Christians has led to this compilation of the teachings of Christ. Her deep emotional connection with the Bible, along with an amazing ability to enthusiastically enlighten Christian women is very evident within these pages.

Pam Gist—Florence, Alabama

This in-depth study brightly illuminates Jesus and His words. Debbie Dupuy, a dynamic teacher, speaker, and missionary, places the red letters under a spiritual microscope. She intensely examines, dissects, and relates them to the culture of Jesus' day, and makes application for us. This examination leaves an indelible mark on our understanding of His purpose, will, and unfathomable love, empowering Jesus' followers to grow in faith and fall deeply in love with Him.

Joanna McWilliams—Tuscumbia, Alabama

Debbie Dupuy is an extraordinary Bible teacher holding high the living Scriptures and making them plain by examples and demonstrations. I've enjoyed many of her studies: *The Shepherd's Daughter*, *The Shepherd and the Sheep*, *Finding God's Purpose for My Life*, and *Remind Me, Lord*. Imagine how excited I was to attend a preview Bible study of *It's a Red-Letter Day!* and now I am thrilled to read and study the book! Debbie motivates us to understand who God is, why we should believe who He is, the power of Jesus Christ, and how He can change our lives if we have faith. But first we have to get to know Him. In this teaching, she introduces us to our Lord and Savior. I'm confident you will gain a deeper relationship with our Father. Many blessings to you!

Sonji Sullivan—Amherst, New York

From a wonderful teacher and dynamic speaker comes a life-changing book of spiritual depth written with knowledge and love. It is easy to see Debbie Dupuy's commitment to the Lord in her book, *It's a Red-Letter Day!* To all who are seeking and searching God's purpose in your life, I highly recommend this book.

Mary Evans—Amherst, New York

This book exemplifies these red-letter words: "Do you love me? . . . Feed my sheep."

Mona Green—Florence, Alabama

You will think, you will learn, and most of all you will come away with a deeper love for Christ after this study. Debbie Dupuy's vibrancy and passionate love for our Savior are contagious. I consider it one of God's blessings that He arranged for me to be a part of learning from *It's a Red-Letter Day!*

Pat Carpenter—Florence, Alabama

Although Debbie Dupuy has not been immune to the difficulties of life, she lives the life that she writes about. She is a much-in-demand teacher, speaker, and author, utilizing a quick wit and old southern charm to share the results of her research. She spends many weeks in mission fields with her husband, helping to alleviate suffering and to bring hope through the Word of God. *It's a Red-Letter Day!* abounds in knowledge, depth, and much humor, leaving each student with an insight into Jesus never-before comprehended. Her book is easy to read and hard to put down.

Gisele Rudder—Florence, Alabama

This series of Bible lessons, *It's a Red-Letter Day!*, is most inspiring and presented with a double dose of enthusiasm. Debbie Dupuy is totally dedicated to teaching others about our Savior, Jesus Christ. You know right away that her desire is that everyone truly knows Christ and what He has done, which gives hope to all people. Because of Debbie's encouragement, I am teaching a ladies' Bible class, which has been a wonderful blessing for me. I am convinced that many will be inspired, encouraged, and blessed by this book!

Patsy Gooch—Florence, Alabama

My encounters with Debbie Dupuy never fail to leave me hungrier for the Word. Her love for the Bible is contagious! When we scheduled a ladies' day last year, it was easy for me to think of a speaker. Since then many of our ladies are anticipating this book and looking forward to reading it. I am certain that none of us will be disappointed!

Hannah Burleson—Clinton, Arkansas

Have you ever met someone and a relationship just clicked? The friendship is effortless, the laughs come easy, and the interests are all the same. When I met Debbie Dupuy fifteen years ago, we spent days discussing philosophies. Debbie has a passion for God's Word that causes her to dig deep, meditate, and share. I have heard her speak countless times, and each time I come away blessed, refreshed, and challenged. She is prepared, prayed up, and powerful, yet somehow always delivers her message in love, splashed with a precious southern accent. I look forward to the reality of *It's a Red-Letter Day!*

JJ Davenport—Sheffield, Alabama

It's a Red-Letter Day! was first presented in a series of ladies' classes by a woman with the love of Jesus just oozing from every pore—Debbie Dupuy. The classes were filled with enthusiasm and love for Jesus and for the women in class. Debbie is an encyclopedia of knowledge on the Bible because she is a diligent student of God's Word. You always leave her class knowing more about Jesus and feeling blessed! This series of lessons examines the words of Jesus in the Gospels and also refers back to the words in the Old Testament that refer to Jesus. But the emphasis of the class is the four Gospels. This series of lessons promoting Jesus' words gave me many new opportunities to examine and reflect on His words and how they changed the world—and especially how they changed me. The impact of those red-letter words is dynamic and never-ending!

Sharon South—Cloverdale, Alabama

Debbie's voracious appetite for studying and sharing God's beautiful word is contagious. This study pulled me into the true love of God and recharged me with spiritual energy and a hunger to delve deeper into the scriptures.

Pat Riner—Tuscumbia, Alabama

INTRODUCTION

Seeing Red!

When you hear someone say “I’m seeing red,” you know that person is angry. Many negative emotions and thoughts are associated with “seeing red.”

The purpose of this study is for you to “see red” but in an entirely different way. I want you to see red as you’ve never seen it before—by studying the words of Jesus.

At our best, we as believers can become stagnant in our walk with God, and that is because we often forget the “good news,” and the good news is Jesus!

Throughout each lesson, remember that Jesus is a friend of sinners, and you don’t have to know everything about Him to live a life of victory. My hope is that as you read and study, you will see red as truth, love, and the power that can transform your life. I pray your view of life will become different the moment you realize that Jesus is the reason you live it. The following story illustrates the seriousness of trusting Jesus.



Tightrope, the high-wire walker, didn’t play it safe. He didn’t do the conventional thing or expect others to understand him. He just focused on what he did best, and in the end he asked people to trust him. As you read the following dialogue, imagine yourself in conversation with Jesus.

Tightrope could do incredible stunts. All over Paris, he performed at unbelievable heights—scary! He first walked the tightrope normally. Then he asked for a blindfold. After his blindfold trek, he added another challenging feat. He walked the tightrope blindfolded, pushing a wheelbarrow.

When an American promoter read in the newspapers about Tightrope's daring ventures, he immediately wrote to the man. "Tightrope, I've seen the pictures in my newspaper, but I don't believe they are authentic. Here is a challenge. I will cover all your expenses and pay you a substantial sum of money if you will come to my country and cross over Niagara Falls with your wheelbarrow." To the challenger's surprise, Tightrope accepted the offer.

When Tightrope signed the contract, the promoter began an extensive advertising campaign. On the appointed day, a large crowd gathered. To Tightrope's credit, he was available and ready to perform. As the drumroll began, Tightrope skillfully rolled his wheelbarrow onto the wire and took his first step toward the United States.

As suspenseful seconds turned into minutes, the crowd gazed with bated breath. Then, after a flawless performance, Tightrope rolled his wheelbarrow onto firm ground. The crowd went wild. Tightrope turned to his new business partner: "Well, Mr. Promoter, now do you believe I can do it?"

The promoter answered, "Well, of course. I saw you do it."

"No," said Tightrope, "that's not what I mean. Do you really believe I can do it?"

"Don't you hear the cheering crowd? No one can deny what happened here today. I am no longer a doubter. As an intelligent man, I must recognize your great skill."

"No, no, no," said Tightrope. "Do you believe I can do it?"

"I don't know what I could do to convince you that I believe you have performed this next-to-impossible feat," said the promoter. "My confidence in your ability is 110 percent."

"Good," said Tightrope. "Now get into the wheelbarrow, and we will further thrill the audience as I wheel you across."

I can feel that lump in your throat.

You see, faith in Jesus is never something just to be talked about. It is something that must be demonstrated and experienced. Following Jesus is like getting into that wheelbarrow. Paul Harvey once said, “If you don’t live it, you don’t believe it.” That’s what Jesus calls us to do as we study His words and life—to live and believe them.

Jesus wants you and me to trust Him by getting into His wheelbarrow and allowing Him to take us across life’s low places on spiritual tightropes. He wants us to know who He is and what He can do to transform our lives. He wants us to awaken from a sleepy-eyed faith and live spontaneously and passionately for Him. He wants our hearts and souls to be connected to Him. For some, that’s a scary thought because that commitment forces us out of our comfort zone.

Walking a tightrope cannot be done in a hit-or-miss fashion, and it becomes more intense when you throw in the Niagara Falls. If Jesus were gripping the handles of that wheelbarrow, would you get in? Are you able to surrender to Him and trust His words? If you said yes, then you will never be the same again.

Keep the following directives in mind as you search for a deeper meaning of Jesus’ words:

- Step into the culture, historical background, and Jewish traditions of the first century.
- Realize the impact that Jesus had on those who followed Him.
- Accept the fact that many of Jesus’ words are a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.
- Trust the fact that Jesus never called us to play it safe or to live half-hearted lives.

Come on, get into the Lord’s wheelbarrow. You’ll be amazed as you let Him prove that He can do what He said. Pull up a chair and sit at Jesus’ table as we study His words. “See red” because it’s going to be *A Red-Letter Day!*

—Debbie Dupuy



Jesus—

The Wonderful One

He is greater than any ruler . . .
mightier than any warrior . . .
nobler than any king . . .

wiser than any sage . . .
bigger than any kingdom . . .
better than any crown . . .

lovelier than any name . . .
worthy of worship . . .
deserving of praise.

—Roy Lessin



RED LETTERS:

How They Came to Be

LUKE 22:20

The red-letter Bible has been prepared and issued in the full conviction that it will meet the needs of the student, the worker, and the searchers after truth everywhere.¹

—Louis Klopsch

When I think of seeing Jesus' words on paper, red seems to be the color most fitting. Red is vibrant and warm. Red is a color of excitement. And most restaurant owners know that the color red stimulates the appetite.

Red has always been a color that is associated with remembrance. For example, in Medieval times red letters were used in ecclesiastical calendars to indicate saints' days and feast days. Today many of us circle important dates on the calendar in red to remind us they are special. I can picture a calendar I used last year that has red circles all over it. In fact, there are red exclamation points, large red stars, and zig-zag lines around certain dates on my calendar. When I mark up my calendar like this, I am making sure that I don't forget something important or pressing.

Many calendars today have dates printed in red, such as holidays and important events in history. Why is that? Because they

stand out. Red helps us distinguish them from other dates on the calendar. Red is the color that sets things apart.

Why Red Letters?

Millions of people around the world read the Bible every day, yet few know why we have red-letter Bibles.

- Why was red chosen to distinguish Jesus' words from all other words in the Bible?
- Have we always had red-letter Bibles?
- Were the original manuscripts of the Bible printed with Jesus' words in red?

The answer to the last two questions is no. Red letters were first used by Louis Klopsch to emphasize Jesus' words in a printing of the New Testament in 1899.

Klopsch was the editor of *Christian Herald* magazine. It is believed that while he was writing an editorial his eyes fell upon Luke 22:20, "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood, even that which is poured out for you*" (ASV), and he conceived the idea to print Jesus' words in red, the color of His blood.²

*This cup is the
new covenant
in my blood,
even that
which is poured
out for you.*

He asked his mentor, T. DeWitt Talmage what he thought of Jesus' words printed in red ink, and Talmage replied, "It could do no harm and most certainly could do much good."

The first red-letter New Testament published in 1899 had an initial printing of sixty thousand copies which soon sold out. The first red-letter Bible followed two years later in 1901. The red-letter Bible soon became the favorite of Christians around the world.³

Klopsch wrote an explanatory note about his red-letter Bible:

Modern Christianity is striving zealously to draw nearer to the great Founder of the Faith. Setting aside mere human doctrines and theories regarding Him, it presses close to the Divine Presence, to gather from His own lips the definition of His mission to the world and His own revelation of the Father . . . The red-letter Bible has been prepared and issued in the full conviction that it will meet the needs of the student, the worker, and the searchers after the truth everywhere.⁴

Klopsch's goal was to get the Bible into the hands of as many people as possible. He especially wanted everyone who read the Bible to understand the Scriptures, particularly the words of Jesus. As Klopsch stated in the above quote, Jesus' own words define "His mission to the world." By printing Jesus' words in red, he gave us a clearer vision of the rest of the scriptures through the eyes of Jesus. By distinguishing Jesus' words, it gives Him pre-eminence, which is where He belongs.

■ ■ How long have red letters been used to signify important words and dates?

■ ■ What are some of the benefits of red-letter Bibles?

■ ■ What verse inspired Louis Klopsch to print Jesus' words in red?



Power in the Words of Jesus

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom

also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:1–3).

📖 According to Hebrews 1:1, how did God speak in times past?

📖 Who upholds all things by the power of His word?

📖 Why are Jesus' words powerful?

Jesus, according to the Hebrews writer, upholds the universe and everything in it by His words. That doesn't mean Jesus is like the mythological Atlas supporting the world on his shoulders, but that He maintains and sustains it. According to Hebrews 1:1–3, there is power in the words of Jesus. He is the express image of the Father and His words are from the Father.

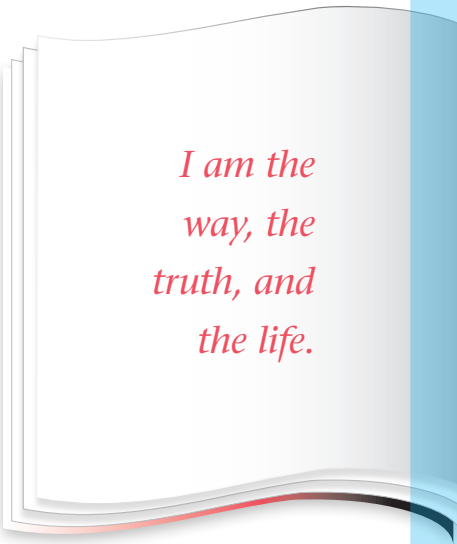


Christ, the Center

Since becoming a Christian at age seventeen, I have been taught that all of Scripture points to Christ. **Red letters** aid us in this fact. To help you visualize this concept, imagine that three people are holding three signs. The first and last signs have arrows pointing to the middle sign which says "Jesus."

- First sign: *The Old Testament*.
- Second sign: *The Gospels—Jesus*.
- Third sign: *The Epistles*.
- Genesis through Malachi, all the books of the Old Testament, point to the coming of Christ.

- The Gospels record the events of the life of Christ on earth. Those books carry the names of their writers—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Then the book of Acts is the history of the church that was established on the first Pentecost after Jesus died on the cross. That book records the acts of the apostles and the spread of Christianity. The book of Acts makes a transition from the life of Christ to the activities of the early church.
- Romans through Jude point back to Christ and teach early Christians and us how to live for Him. The book of Revelation immediately follows the Epistles. It is a book of prophecy that records events that would shortly take place and prophecies about events at the end of time.



*I am the
way, the
truth, and
the life.*

All Scripture harmonizes and plays to the sound of Jesus' life and death. The Bible points us to Christ and the plan of salvation that God made possible through Him, so **red letters** help us to harmonize and understand all of Scripture. Jesus repeatedly conveyed with His words the purpose of His coming and what He came to accomplish.

When Jesus arrived, everything changed, including the tenure of the Law. "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

Everything in the Old Testament points to the coming of Christ, and everything after the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) points back to Christ. The Epistles teach us how to live the Christian life.

📖 What does Hebrews 8:7–13 teach about the Old Law?

📖 What do the Gospels record?

📖 What does John 1:44–45 teach concerning Jesus?

📖 What do the Epistles teach us?

📖 Why is 2 Timothy 3:16–17 important as we learn how to apply Scripture to our lives?

📖 Why should we follow Christ's example? Live for Him? Learn of Him? Get to know Him?



Jesus' Words Are Life

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life (John 5:24).

Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death (John 8:51).

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6).

The temple police made this statement about Jesus' words: "No man ever spoke like this Man!" (John 7:46). Jesus came to change lives and undo the curse of sin and shame. He came to give us a different way to live. It is through His **red-letter** words that we come to

realize that He is who He claimed to be. Red-letter words have the power to change lives, set free the downtrodden and depressed, and help us understand that we now live under the new law of grace.

I have the deepest appreciation and gratitude for Louis Klopsch, for his reading of Jesus' words concerning His blood, and for the idea it gave him to print a translation of the Bible setting Jesus' words in red.

- Red: The color of blood that gives us life and vitality.
- Red: The color of passionate love.
- Red: The color most fitting for our Savior's words.

I must admit, red has always been my favorite color. I have loved it since childhood because it is so vibrant, but I have come to love it even more because it sets Jesus' words apart from all others. However, without Klopsch, we might never have had the opportunity to read Jesus' words in red. Because of His creativity, every day can be a "Red-Letter Day!"



To the architect, He is the chief cornerstone
(1 Peter 2:6).

To the bride, He is the bridegroom (Matthew 25:1).

To the carpenter, He is the door (John 10:9).

To the engineer, He is the new and living way
(Hebrews 10:20).

To the farmer, He is the Lord of the harvest
(Matthew 9:38).

To the gardener, He is the true vine (John 15:1).

To the jurist, He is the righteous judge (2 Timothy 4:8).

To the lawyer, He is the advocate (1 John 2:1).

To the philanthropist, He is the unspeakable gift
(2 Corinthians 9:15).

To the philosopher, He is the wisdom of God
(1 Corinthians 1:24).

To the preacher, He is the Word of God
(Revelation 19:13).

To the soldier, He is the captain of our salvation
(Hebrews 2:10).

To the statesman, He is the desire of the nations
(Haggai 2:7).

To the sinner, He is the Lamb of God that taketh away
the sins of the world (John 1:29).

—Anonymous



AN UPSIDE-DOWN SAVIOR IN A *Right-Side-Up World*

JOHN 1:10–14, 16–18

*But as many as received Him, to them He
gave the right to become children of God.*

—John 1:12

Several years ago when I began this exploration of Jesus and His words, I realized, “This is unlike any other study I have ever done.” Indeed it was! As I studied the one around whom we divide time into categories of before and after Jesus’ birth, something within me began to change. When I analyzed the words of Jesus with great intensity, I changed my view of Him. Jesus was not weak and passive. Quite the contrary. I discovered that His very nature runs upside down in Satan’s right-side-up world. He is unlike anyone who ever lived. If you allow Him to take over your life, you will never be the same again.

On Earth and in Heaven

As He walked the earth, He was God in the flesh. In Him dwelt “all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9). He walked and