

# Now! Vember

- Breaking free of the classic  
enemies of the people of God

Matthew 13:53-58

Today: “That’s So Yesterday”

Breaking free of Egypt: Our Past

“Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away.  
Now it looks as though they're here to stay.

Oh, I believe in yesterday.”

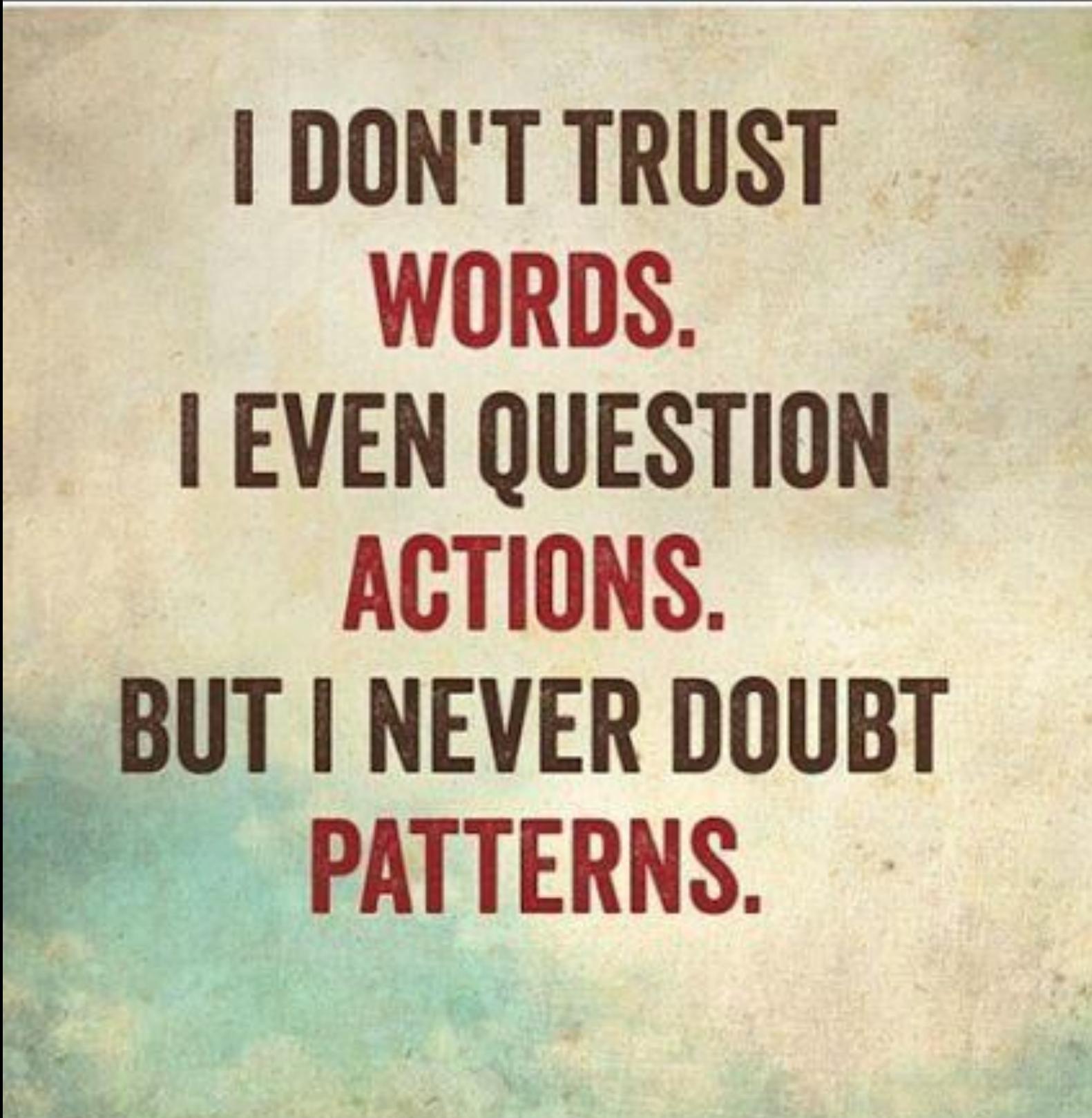
“Suddenly I'm not half the man I used to be.  
There's a shadow hanging over me.

Oh, yesterday came suddenly.”



**"DO NOT GIVE YOUR PAST  
THE POWER TO DEFINE  
WHO YOU ARE."**





**I DON'T TRUST  
WORDS.  
I EVEN QUESTION  
ACTIONS.  
BUT I NEVER DOUBT  
PATTERNS.**



The **BEST**  
predictor  
of future  
behaviour  
**IS PAST**  
behaviour

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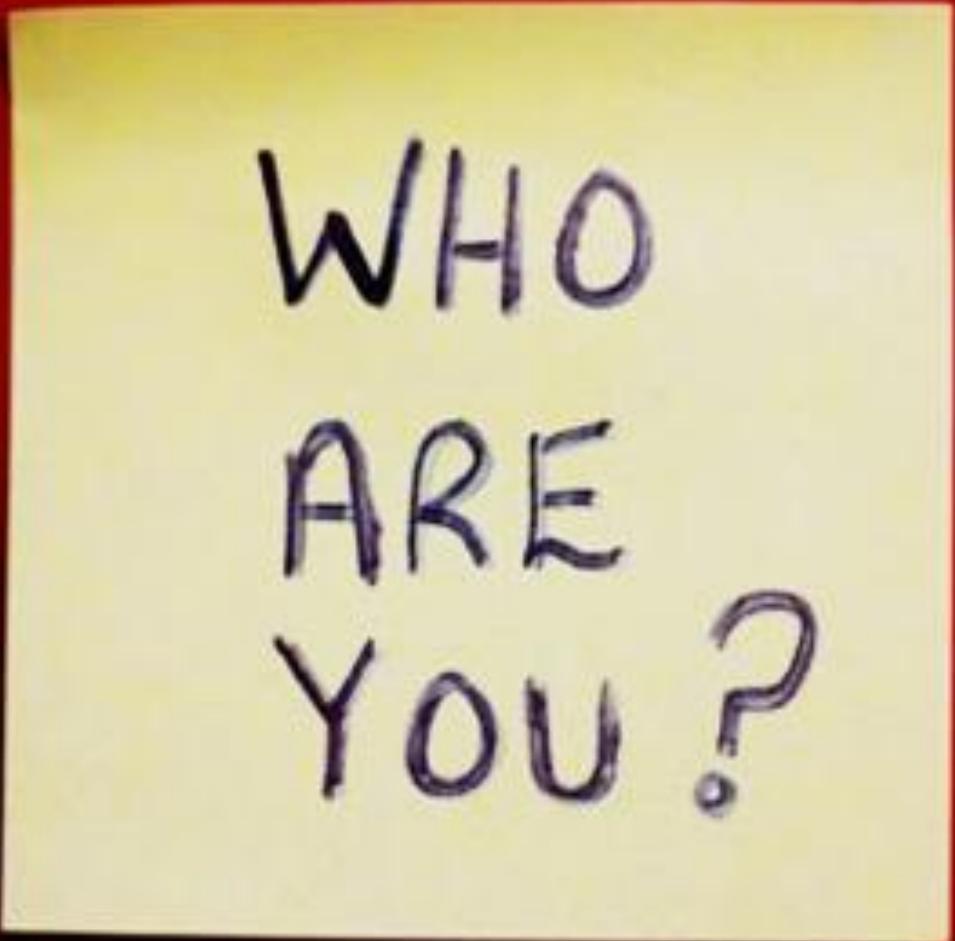
Matthew  
13:53-58

“Is not this the  
carpenter's  
son?”



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# How do you define yourself?



WHO  
ARE  
YOU?



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“It's impossible to live in a way that is inconsistent with the way you see yourself.” Dr. Neil T. Anderson

# The Example of Israel: The people of God spent their formative years in Egypt

- As slaves
- With un-true gods
- With un-godly influences
  - With pain
  - With fear

# What was “formative” for you?

- Shame, fear, guilt, failure
- Abuse, lies, abandonment
  - Family, patterns, culture
- Success, approval, rewards
  - Sin

# Our Salvation Illustration: God brings us out of Egypt (our Sin and our Past) for His glory

Exodus 3:12 “He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

He Redeems us through Jesus' death.

Revelation 5:9-10, "And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you redeemed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

But the people couldn't shake their connection with Egypt

Numbers 14:4, "And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

But the people couldn't shake their connection with Egypt

Exodus 14:12, “Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

With a false perspective of what it was like:

Exodus 16:3, “and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Do you “believe in yesterday”?

Do you believe that your past is gone?

# You and Your Past died with Jesus.

2Corinthians 5:14-15, “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

2Corinthians 5:16-17, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

# Notice what's missing?

Romans 8:37-39, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Notice what's missing?

1Corinthians 3:21-23, “So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or *the present or the future*— all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Your Past is gone.

Redeemed by Jesus

We tend to define our present selves by our pasts.

“That’s just not me.”

“I’m not like that.”

“Not me, I’m ...”

Jesus defines our present by His future.

Colossians 3:1-2, “If then *you have been raised with Christ,* seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

We, by faith, define ourselves by our future.

1John 3:2-3, “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

# Forget and stretch.

Philippians 3:13, “Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: “being purposefully neglectful and forgetful about my past” and “stretching forward upon” what lies “in my future.”

# Circumcise your heart.

Joshua 5:8-9, “When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.”

I am a new creation!

My past is gone!

I am made new in His image!

I am seated with Him right now!

I am Holy, Powerful and Righteous!

As He is, so I am in this world!