

What did **Jesus** teach?

Speaking to very poor people, people struggling to get enough food for each day, people living under a harsh Roman occupation, Jesus did not say "fight the Romans".

He did not say "use violence to obtain justice".

He did not say try to win money at a casino.

He did not say steal from the rich. He did not tell people to focus on external circumstances.

Rather, Jesus challenged poor people

- to avoid greed and to increase compassion.

- to avoid lust and show mercy.

- to avoid aggression and practise forgiveness.

Jesus told the poor to concentrate on basic human values, to put internal values first, to focus on internal circumstances as a way of improving themselves and their world.