

Strange Language of Jesus  
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English is a difficult language to understand, even for those of us who know no other language. Grammar rules are not always consistent. Spelling rules are broken more often than not. The auto correct features on our phones and keyboards have made us lousy and lazy spellers. Some of us who are grammar gurus want to take the lead out and be the one who leads to better grammar. (Kudos to the ones who chuckled at the previous sentence.)

We have a lot of trouble with English. We park in driveways and drive in parkways. We know that farms are used to produce produce. If the dump is full, it will refuse further refuse. We know that we should polish Polish furniture. We are happy when the soldier in the desert doesn't have to desert his dessert. Once I cut my hand and wound a bandage around the wound.

When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes. A band made up of a band of fisherman painted a bass on the bass drum. Sometimes, insurance for the invalid is invalid. From a deer stand, you can see when a buck does funny things around the does. Somethings are even too intimate to share with an intimate friend.

There is no egg in an eggplant. No ham in a hamburger. No apple in a pineapple. English muffins did not originate in England, and French fries were not invented in France. Quick sand is not really quick. Boxers box in rings that are square. Teachers have taught, but preachers don't praught. When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. When my grandma referred to sweetmeats, she was talking about candy. But when she cooked sweetbreads, I didn't eat any because sweetbreads aren't sweet, and they aren't breads. (Disgusting food, folks.)

There's no doubt that English is a strange language.

Jesus also used some strange language. In Mark 9:34, 35, Jesus said that in order to gain life for yourself, you must die to yourself. "For whoever wants to save his file will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Strange that our weakness provides power. "My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness," (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:9, The Message).

Strange that Jesus said we must love the hater and hate the lover. Love the hater (Luke 6:27-31) by praying for abusers and "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Strange because that goes against our instincts and make us appear that we have no backbone, no desire to defend ourselves, and no courage to seek revenge. Strange that although Jesus commanded we love and respect our families, He also commanded that our love for our families should not even come close to our love for Him.

English may appear to be strange, but when used correctly, it makes perfect sense. Christianity may appear to be strange, but when used correctly, it makes perfect sense. Go ahead, give it a try.