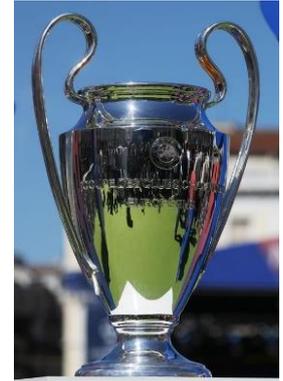


What would Jesus say to Jürgen Klopp?

Jürgen Klopp has just led Liverpool Football Club to Champion's League glory. By all accounts it was a dull match in Madrid compared to the 4-0 demolishing of Barcelona at Anfield. But the result was what mattered! Liverpool are now champions of Europe – again!



What would you say to this man? I find it helpful to think about what Jesus might say to him? Obviously we'll never know, but as I read the Bible two possibilities stand out:

1. Don't listen to Bill Shankly!

Bill Shankly was one of the best managers Liverpool have had laying the foundations for success that Bob Paisley built on. His most famous words are:

"Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that."

I think Jesus would tell Jürgen that Bill is wrong! Football is not the most important thing in this world. And I think Jesus would explain what he meant by referring back to a story he told 2,000 years ago. You'll find it in **Luke 12:16-21**.

A man worked hard for what he wanted – good harvest and enough money for a comfortable life. He was successful. But he was not satisfied and sought to acquire more. For this Jesus called him a fool. A fool because he does not realise could die at any moment and lose everything – worse, all that he has worked so hard to possess will count for nothing. He's a fool because he does not live in the light that God has set a day of judgement for each and every one of us when we die! He does not think this day to be real, even though God given proof that this day is coming:

"For God has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." Acts 17:31

2. Remember what you already believe Jürgen and allow it to shape your life – always!

Jürgen Klopp is a Christian. He knows that the day of judgement awaits him and he knows what is necessary to get ready for that day. He knows sin (the wrong things we do in life) is what prevents us entering heaven. He knows we cannot remove the record of sin... but that God forgive us for it – which is why Jesus came in to this world to die. He has said:

"Jesus is the most important person in history... He took all the sins on himself and was nailed on a cross. This why Jesus' death on the Cross was the greatest act that has ever been achieved."

I also think Jesus would say to Jürgen: Enjoy your football – I gave you those gifts, I made you good at football & managing people. Use those gifts for that purpose! Enjoy your football Jürgen but don't make it your all.

And to us Jesus would say the same thing: Enjoy the gifts God has given you, make the most of who you are, but remember what's really important is not found in this world – it is in the next. Make that your priority.

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