

“We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together” by Taylor Swift

A. Say NO to anything less than God’s Word.

Matthew 4:1-4

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.

² For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

³ During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

⁴ But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

-- We get hungry for a lot of things: food (of course), relationships, happiness, satisfaction, success in life, escape from boredom, significance, a little peace and quiet.

There’s some hunger in our song! [Play snippet 1]

I remember when we broke up the first time
Saying, "This is it, I've had enough," 'cause like
We hadn't seen each other in a month
When you said you needed space. (What?)
Then you come around again and say
"Baby, I miss you and I swear I'm gonna change, trust me."
Remember how that lasted for a day?
I say, "I hate you," we break up, you call me, "I love you."

Relationships are full of seasons of hunger and satisfaction, especially early on. Big highs (“I miss you” “I love you”) and lows (“I hate you” “I’ve had enough”)

-- Jesus was asked to take a stone and make it into what he was hungry for. God intended stones for one purpose, not for eating! “NO” he said. Then he added, “God’s Word is what I’m really hungry for.”

-- The truth of God’s Word (His presence in our lives, really) is what satisfies our hunger.

B. Say NO to impressing the wrong person.

Matthew 4:5-7,

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple,

⁶ and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'"

-- The Devil said, "let's put on a show! Let's impress God with a big jump." Jesus said NO to that dare.

Our song has some drama in it! [Play snippet 2]

I'm really gonna miss you picking fights
And me falling for it screaming that I'm right
And you would hide away and find your peace of mind
With some indie record that's much cooler than mine

Ooh, you called me up again tonight
But ooh, this time I'm telling you, I'm telling you

We are never, ever, ever getting back together
We are never, ever, ever getting back together
You go talk to your friends, talk to my friends, talk to me (talk to me)
But we are never ever ever ever getting back together

Ooh, yeah, ooh yeah, ooh yeah Oh oh oh

He picks fights on purpose just to get a rise out of her. He's trying to make her jealous by listening to other people's records, that are cooler than hers. Instead of talking directly to one another, they're using their friends as go-betweens! Game-playing in relationships isn't healthy. Game playing with God isn't healthy.

-- To test God is to reverse our proper relationship to Him. We say, "God, you have to do this something to satisfy me." In this case, "I'll jump, you catch." Jesus was right to say "don't play games with God."

-- Jesus was being asked to bend His behavior to what the Devil wanted. NO! The first person we should impress is Jesus ... the last person pay attention to is the Devil. If someone asks you to do something, and you'd like to please that person by doing it ... be sure to say NO if what it is they ask you to do would not impress Jesus, or make Jesus happy.

C. Say NO to dumb decisions.

Matthew 4:8-11,

⁸ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the kingdoms of the world and all their glory.

⁹ "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

¹⁰ "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'"

¹¹ Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

-- The Devil gave Jesus a choice ... if you worship Satan, you can have everything you see! The power, the fame and fortune ... ANYTHING Jesus wanted, He could have, if only He would worship the Devil.

-- BUT, Jesus already had everything He needed! He created all that! The Devil was trying to catch Jesus at a weak moment to make a deal that would be far worse than what He already had.

-- Say NO to dumb decisions especially made while tired, angry, lonely, or sad. Get help to make good decisions when you're weak.

-- It's okay to say "GET LOST!" to the Devil.

Taylor Swift finally gets around to a good decision, saying NO. [Play snippet 3]

I used to think that we were forever ever
And I used to say, "Never say never..."
Uggg... so he calls me up and he's like, "I still love you,"
And I'm like... "I just... I mean this is exhausting, you know, like,
We are never getting back together. Like, ever"

No!

We are never ever ever getting back together
We are never ever ever getting back together
You go talk to your friends, talk to my friends, talk to me
But we are never ever ever ever getting back together

What's the main point of today's message? "I am never ever ever getting back together with what might lead me away from my faith ... NO."

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, help us say YES to You. When we face choices in life help us make smart decisions and say NO to the dumb stuff in life. In Jesus' name, amen."