

# JESUS' PLAN AND PROGRAM

(Full Version)

Here is a STUDY GUIDE with a SELECTION OF VERSES and PARAPHRASES from the pages of the four GOSPELS in the New Testament of the Bible:

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE and JOHN.

This is a reader's guide towards a greater understanding and appreciation of Jesus' Plan and Program.

We wish you well in your journey of personal discovery where you may meet –  
"Jesus, the Man from Heaven, for Everyone, Everywhere!"

It is a companion to an on line document: [www.christianaffirmations.info](http://www.christianaffirmations.info)

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An On Line document

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Edited and Published by Geoffrey J. Ward

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I follow and obey Jesus

SEE: [www.christianaffirmations.info](http://www.christianaffirmations.info)

## INTRODUCTION

This on line document about Jesus includes material drawn from the New Testament Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The text is from *The Living Bible*, paraphrased by Dr Kenneth N. Taylor and published by Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189, by whose kind permission it is reproduced here.

The aim of this publication is to allow the material of the four Gospels to speak for itself and, by means of contemporary editorial insights, to rearrange the texts, so that a reader will have easier access to the message of Jesus in a clearly presented and unfolding form.

The central direction behind the whole work is the instruction or command of God the Father, on the Mount of Transfiguration: "This is my Son, my Chosen One. This is my beloved Son and I am wonderfully pleased with Him".

"Listen to Him!"

"Obey Him!" (See Matthew 17:5 Mark 9:7 and Luke 9:35)

Taking this a step further –

"Listen to Him!" - See Chapter 2 entitled "Jesus' Message – Teaching".

"Obey Him!" - See Chapter 3 entitled "Jesus' Instructions - Directions - Commands" included in the on line document: [www.christianaffirmations.info](http://www.christianaffirmations.info)

As an introduction: see Chapter 1 entitled "Jesus' Role -Task - Work".

As a conclusion see: Chapter 4 entitled "From now on until Jesus reappears on earth".

Jesus said, "Obey the Father in Heaven, for this is the decisive question!" (Matthew 7:21. "Anyone who doesn't obey Jesus doesn't love Jesus". (John 14:22-24)

Our hope is that within these pages you may meet and receive, love and obey, "Jesus, The Man from Heaven - for Everyone, Everywhere!"

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#### WHO JESUS IS

Jesus Christ was with God. He has always been alive and is himself God.  
John 1:1-2  
Christ Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus.  
John 14:10

#### JESUS IS CREATOR

Jesus Christ created everything there is – nothing exists that he didn't make.  
John 1:3

#### JESUS IS THE GREATEST PERSON AND RULES OVER ALL

Jesus is destined for God's highest and mightiest praise and acclamation.  
Luke 1:42  
Jesus will be very great and will be called the Son of God. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign and rule over Israel forever; his kingdom, home, rule and care will never end!  
Luke 1:32-33  
Simeon said to Mary that this child, Jesus, shall be rejected by many in Israel and this to their undoing. But he will be the greatest joy of many others. And the deepest thoughts of many hearts shall be revealed and disclosed.  
Luke 2:34-35  
Jesus must do all that is right, worthy, good, true, honest, lawful and just.  
Matthew 3:15

#### JESUS IS FROM HEAVEN – FROM GOD THE FATHER'S HOME RULE AND CARE

Jesus has come from heaven, God the Father's home, rule and care and is greater and more important than anyone else.  
John 3:31  
Jesus is from above.

John 8:23

Jesus is not of this world.

John 8:23

Jesus is the Man of Glory.

John 8:28

The Father is saying excellent and glorious things about Jesus.

John 8:54

#### JESUS' CHARACTER AND WORK

The prophecy of Isaiah concerning Jesus was fulfilled: "Look at my Servant, my Personal Attendant. See my Chosen One. He is my Beloved, in whom my soul delights. I will put my spirit upon him, and he will test, try and judge the nations, the peoples of the world. He does not fight nor shout; he does not raise his voice! He does not crush the weak, or quench the smallest hope; he will end all conflict with his final victory, and his name shall be the hope of the entire world, the hope of all the peoples of the world".

Matthew 12:17-21

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Jesus; The Lord has appointed Jesus to preach and declare Good News to the poor; Good, favourable, agreeable, advantageous, gratifying and satisfying News – God's latest announcement, communication and message with information and advice, instruction and direction to the poor; those in poverty and in need and in low condition without personal resources for recovery.

The Lord has sent Jesus to announce that captives shall be released and the blind shall see, that the downtrodden shall be freed from their oppressors and that God is ready to give blessings, favours, kindnesses, advantages, benefits, assistance and support to all people who come to him. God is ready to look with favour and acceptance on all people who come to him.

Luke 4:18-19

Jesus, the Man of Heaven, the Man of God the Father's Home, Rule and Care has come to earth and will return to Heaven again, to God the Father's Home, Rule and Care.

John 3:13

#### JESUS, THE TRUE LIGHT

Jesus Christ is the true Light, the real and actual Illumination.

John 1:6-7

Jesus Christ, the one who is the true Light, the real and actual Illumination arrived to shine on and in everyone coming into the world.

John 1:9

Jesus is the Light and Illumination who will shine upon the nations, the peoples of the world and he will be the glory and splendour of God's people, Israel!

Luke 2:32

Heaven's dawn Jesus, the dawn of God the Father's Home, Rule and Care is about to break upon us, to give light and illumination to those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, the shadow of complete destruction and to guide, lead, escort and direct us into the path, the way of peace, harmony and friendship.

Luke 1:78-79

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great Light and Illumination; they sat in the land of death and complete destruction and the Light and Illumination broke through upon them.

Matthew 4:16

Eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality is in him, in Jesus Christ and this life and vitality gives light and illumination to all mankind, to everyone, everywhere, to the whole of mankind. His life and vitality is the light and illumination that shines through the darkness – and the darkness can never extinguish it and put it out.

John 1:4-5

But while Jesus is still here in the world, he gives it his light and illumination.

John 9:5

Jesus, light and illumination will shine out for us just a little while longer.

John 12:35

#### JESUS, THE SAVIOUR, RESCUER, DELIVERER AND PRESERVER

If anyone hears Jesus and doesn't obey him, Jesus is not his or her judge – for Jesus has come to save, rescue and keep secure and unharmed the world and the peoples of the world and not to test, try and judge it and them.

John 12:47

God did not send his Son, Jesus into the world to condemn it and to give judgment against it but to save it, rescue and keep it secure and unharmed.

John 3:17

The Lord, the God of Israel, is sending us a Mighty and Powerful Saviour, Rescuer, Deliverer and Preserver, Jesus – someone to save us and rescue and keep us secure and unharmed from our enemies, from all who hate us.

Luke 1:69-71

The Lord, the God of Israel, has come to visit his people and has redeemed them, rescued, saved, delivered and liberated them from sin, from thought, speech and action against God's Laws and death and complete destruction in hell.

Luke 1:68

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, has come to search for and to save, rescue and keep secure and unharmed such people as the lost sons of Abraham.

Luke 19:9-10

Salvation, redemption and deliverance come to the world through the Jews, from among the Jews.

John 4:21-24

Jesus, the Saviour, Rescuer, Deliverer, and Preserver, the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Jesus is the Saviour, Rescuer, Deliverer and Preserver God has given to the world, to the peoples of the world.

Luke 2:29-31

Jesus, the Saviour, Rescuer, Deliverer and Preserver will save, rescue and keep unharmed his people from their sins, from the eternal, everlasting and unceasing death penalty and punishment, where his people would cease to live and cease to be in existence for and because of thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws. Jesus will prevent his people failing and missing the true end, purpose and scope of life, which is God.

Matthew 1:21

#### JESUS AND THE FATHER

Jesus is "Emmanuel" meaning, which means, "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

Jesus is the Messiah.

John 4:26

Anyone who has seen Jesus has seen the Father.

John 14:9

Jesus is the Son of God.

John 10:34-36

Jesus is to be listened to.

Mark 9:7

Jesus, God's Son, his Chosen One, is to be listened to.

Luke 9:35

Jesus, God's beloved Son, God's dearly loved Son is to be obeyed. People must do as directed by Him. People must do as he tells them.

Matthew 17:5

Jesus is one witness, one person who testifies, gives evidence, declares and affirms and his Father, who sent him, is the other witness, the other person who testifies, gives evidence, declares and affirms.

John 8:18

The Father himself has also testified, witnessed, given evidence, declared and affirmed about Jesus, though not appearing to us personally, or speaking to us directly, that is face to face.

John 5:37

Jesus has seen God and is the Companion, Partner and Associate of the Father.

John 1:18

Jesus knows God, because he was with God and God sent him to us.

John 7:29

Jesus knows God the Father and fully obeys him. Jesus does exactly as God directs him. Jesus does exactly as told by God.

John 8:55

Jesus has with him the Father who sent him.

John 8:29

Jesus is not here on his own but God sent him.

John 8:42

Jesus has come to us representing his Father.

John 5:43

Jesus is the representative of God who is Truth, Fact and Reality.

John 7:28

Jesus is the Agent of God his Father in everything.

Luke 10:22

Jesus honours his Father.

John 8:49

The Father does his work through Jesus.

John 14:10

The Father loves the Son, Jesus and tells him everything he is doing.

John 5:20

Jesus the Son can do nothing by himself. Jesus does only what he sees the Father doing, and in the same way as the Father does.

John 5:19

Jesus' Father constantly does good and confers benefits and Jesus is following his example of constantly doing good and conferring benefits.

John 5:17

Jesus will freely do what the Father requires of him so that the world, the people of the world will know that Jesus loves the Father.

John 14:31

Jesus has come here to the earth from heaven from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care to do the will, wish and desire, the plan, purpose and pleasure of God who sent him, not to have his own way, not to exercise his own will, wish and desire, plan, purpose and pleasure.

John 6:38

Jesus always does those things that are pleasing to the Father. Jesus always does those things that delight and satisfy the Father.

John 8:29

Jesus' nourishment, refreshment and sustenance comes from doing the will, wish and desire, the plan, purpose and pleasure of God who sent him, and from finishing and completing his work.

John 4:34

### JESUS DOES MIRACLES

At God's direction, Jesus has done many a miracle, deed and action to help and assist the people.

John 10:32

The evidence and proof that Jesus is the Messiah is in the miracles deeds and actions he does in the name of his Father.

John 10:25

The truest witness Jesus has is not from a man, for example, John the Baptist. Jesus has a greater witness than John. Jesus refers to the miracles, deeds and actions he does; these have been assigned to Jesus by the Father and they give evidence and prove that the Father has sent Jesus.

John 5:34-36

Jesus the Son will do far more awesome and wonderful miracles, deeds and actions than this man's healing.

John 5:20

### JESUS RAISES THE DEAD PEOPLE

Jesus will even raise from the dead anyone he wants to, just as the Father does.

John 5:21

If Jesus is casting out demons, evil spirits, because of power from God, it gives evidence and proves that the Kingdom of God, God the Father's Home, Rule and Care has arrived here on earth.

Luke 11:20

The miracles, deeds and actions Jesus did:

Those who were blind can see. The lame are walking without a limp. The lepers are completely healed. The deaf can hear again. The dead come back to life. And the poor are hearing the Good News. And the poor are hearing the Good, favourable, agreeable, advantageous, gratifying and satisfying News – God's latest announcement, communication and message with information and advice, instructions and directions to the poor, those people in poverty and need and in low condition without personal resources for recovery.

Blessed, happy and fortunate is the one, the person, who does not lose his or her faith in Jesus, who does not lose his or her firm relying trust, belief, assurance, confidence, reliance, dependence, expectation and hope in Jesus.

Luke 7:20-23

The miracles, deeds and actions Jesus did:

The blind people Jesus healed and the lame people now walking without help and assistance and the cured lepers, and the deaf who hear, and the dead raised to life and vitality. Jesus preached and proclaimed the Good News to the poor.

Blessed, happy and fortunate are those people who don't doubt Jesus, who don't question or distrust Jesus.

Matthew 11:4-6

### JESUS' MESSAGE

Jesus – sent by God – speaks God's Words, for God's Spirit is upon Him without measure or limit or restriction.

John 3:33-34

The Words Jesus says are not his own, but are from his Father who lives and continues in being in Him.

John 14: 10

For these are not Jesus' own ideas, but he has told us what the Father told him to tell us.

John 12:49

Jesus has not been telling us his own ideas, but has spoken of those matters the Father taught him.

John 8:28

Jesus is not teaching us his own thoughts, but those of God who sent him.

John 7:16

And Jesus knows that the Father's instructions lead to eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality; so whatever the Father tells Jesus to say, he says it.

John 12:50

Jesus says only what he is told to by the One, God the Father, who sent Him; and He is Truth, Fact and Reality.

John 8:25-26

Those the Father speaks to, who learn the truth, fact and reality from Him, will be attracted to and drawn to Jesus.

John 6:45

Jesus tells the truth, fact and reality.

John 8:45

Jesus tells the truth, fact and reality he heard from God.

John 8:40

His Father has entrusted all truth, fact and reality to Jesus. Only the Father knows the Son, Jesus and the Father is known only by the Son, Jesus and by those to whom the Son, Jesus reveals and discloses Him.

Matthew 11:27

Jesus, the King and Ruler came to bring truth, fact and reality to the world, to the people of the world. All who love the truth, fact and reality are his personal followers and subscribe to and support his plan and program.

John 18:37

Jesus tells us what he has seen and heard.

John 3:32

Jesus is telling us what he saw when he was with his Father.

John 8:38

Jesus, the companion, partner and associate of the Father, has told us all about Him.

John 1:18

Jesus will tell us plainly and clearly all about the Father.

John 16:25

No one really knows the Father except the Son, Jesus and those to whom the Son, Jesus chooses to reveal and disclose Him.

Luke 10:22

No one can come to Jesus unless the Father attracts and draws him or her to Jesus.

John 6:65

Jesus is the one sent to us with God's message: God's announcement and communication with information and advice, instructions and directions.

John 5:38

Jesus wishes to teach, instruct and direct us.

Matthew 11:29-30

The Scriptures point to Jesus.

John 5:39

### JESUS' FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES

We are Jesus' friends and associates, proved by the fact that Jesus has told us everything the Father told Him.

John 15:15

Jesus has come as a Light, an Illumination, to shine in this dark world, so that all people who put their trust in him, all people who put their firm relying faith, belief, assurance, confidence, reliance, dependence, expectation and hope in him will no longer wander in the darkness without illumination.

John 12:46

Jesus is the Light, the Illumination of the world, of the people of the world. So if we follow Jesus, if we personally subscribe to and support Jesus plan and programme, we won't be stumbling through the darkness without illumination, for living light, vital continuing and sustaining illumination will flood our path.

John 8:12

But those people doing right, those people doing what is worthy, true, honest, lawful and just, come gladly and with pleasure to the Light and Illumination to let everyone see that they are doing what God wants them to do.

John 3:21

All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned to us by the Father, the One who sent Jesus, for there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end.

John 9:4

### JESUS' AUTHORITY

Jesus called together his twelve apostles and gave them authority, legal power and right to rule and control over all demons, all evil spirits – power to cast them out – and to heal restore and cure all diseases. Then Jesus sent them away to tell everyone about the coming, the arrival of the Kingdom of God, God the Father's Home, Rule and Care and to heal, restore and cure the sick.

Luke 9:1-2

Jesus is master and in control even of the Sabbath.

Luke 6:5

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, is master, is in control even of the Sabbath.

Matthew 12:8

Jesus, the Man from Heaven, the Man from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care has authority even to decide what men and women can do on Sabbath days.

Mark 2:28

Jesus is greater and more important than King Solomon.

Matthew 12:42

Jesus is greater and more important than Jonah.

Matthew 12:41

Jesus is our servant, our personal attendant.

Luke 22:27

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, did not come to be served, to be attended on and waited upon, but to serve, to attend on and wait upon others, other people and to give his life as a ransom for many, a deliverance, a liberation, a release, a redemption for many people.

Matthew 20:28

Jesus, the Man from Heaven, the Man from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care is not here to be served, to be attended on and waited upon, but to help others, other people and to give his life as a ransom for many people, a deliverance, a liberation, a release, a redemption for many people.

Mark 10:45

Jesus eats his food and drinks his wine.

Luke 7:34

Jesus, the Son of Mankind feasts and drinks.

Matthew 11:19

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, has no home of his own – no place to lay his head.

Matthew 8:20

Jesus doesn't even own a place to lay his head. Jesus, The Man from Heaven, the Man from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care has no earthly home at all.

Luke 9:58

Jesus has come into the world to give sight to those who are spiritually blind and to show those, who think they see, that they are blind.

John 9:39

Jesus was full of loving forgiveness, loving pardon, release, liberation and truth, fact and reality.

John 1:14

Jesus Christ brought us loving forgiveness, loving pardon, release and liberation.

John 1:17

Jesus has been given all authority, all legal power and right to control and rule in heaven, in God the Father's Home, Rule and Care and on earth.

Matthew 28:18

Jesus has authority; all legal power and right to control and rule, here on earth to forgive sins to pardon, excuse and acquit all thoughts, speech and actions against God's laws.

Matthew 9:6

Jesus proved his authority, his legal power and right to control and rule, to forgive sin, to pardon, excuse and acquit all thought, speech and action against God's laws, by demonstrating his power to heal, restore and cure disease.

Luke 5:24

## JESUS' JOB ON EARTH

Jesus' job down here on earth is to get sinners, those people who think, speak and act against God's laws, back God – not to worry about the good people, those who are upright and in right standing with God and who obey his laws.

Matthew 9:13

Jesus hasn't come, hasn't arrived to tell good people to repent, to stop thinking, speaking and acting against God's laws and to obey them instead. Jesus has come, has arrived to tell the bad ones, the bad people to repent, to stop thinking, speaking and acting against God's laws and to obey them instead.

Mark 2:17

Jesus purpose, aim and plan is to invite sinners, those people who think, speak and act against God's laws, to turn and move right round away from their sins to face God and then begin to obey God's Laws instead. Jesus' purpose, aim and plan are not to spend his time with those people who think themselves already good enough.

Luke 5:32

We are captives and slaves to sin, to thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws, every one of us. And captives and slaves don't have rights, but Jesus the Son has every right there is. Jesus the Son has every right, privilege, advantage, claim, immunity, leave, licence, liberty of action, freedom and permission there is. So if the Son, Jesus sets us free, we will indeed be free, liberated entirely from captivity to sin, to thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws, and death, where we would perish and cease to live and cease to be in existence.

John 8:34-36

Jesus brings peace, harmony and friendship on earth for all those people obeying and pleasing God.

Luke 2:14

Jesus didn't come to give peace, harmony and friendship to the earth. No! Rather, Jesus came to give strife and division. Jesus came to give strife, controversy, conflict and struggle between opposed people and division, dissension, discord, disunion and separation arising from differences of opinion amongst people.

Luke 12:51

Don't imagine that Jesus came to bring peace, harmony and friendship to the earth! No! Rather, Jesus came bringing a sword with division, warfare and the wielding of the power of life and vitality and death and complete destruction.

Matthew 10:34

Jesus has come to bring fire, a severe trial to the earth, and, oh, that his task were completed. There is a terrible baptism, plunge and immersion in a trial of suffering ahead of him and how he is pent up, constrained, hard pressed, closely confined and shut in until it is accomplished.

Luke 12:49-50

Jesus came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man's worst enemies will be right in his own home!

Matthew 10:35-36

From now on families will be split apart, three in favour of Jesus, and two against – or perhaps the other way around. A father will decide one way about Jesus; his son the other way about Jesus; mother and daughter will disagree; and the decision of an honoured mother-in-law will be spurned by her daughter-in-law. The decision of an honoured mother-in-law will be rejected with disdain and treated with disrespect and contempt by her daughter-in-law.

Luke 12:52-53

### JESUS, GOD'S LAWS AND OUR JUDGMENT

Jesus hasn't come to cancel the Laws of Moses and the Warnings of the Prophets. No, Jesus came to fulfil them and to make them all come true. Jesus came to observe them, keep them, carry them out, comply with them, obey them, perform them, satisfy them and complete them – The Laws of Moses and the Warnings of the Prophets.

Matthew 5:17

The Father leaves all judgment, sentence and punishment of sin, of thoughts, speech and actions against God's laws, to his Son Jesus, so that everyone will respect and honour the Son, Jesus, just as they respect and honour the Father.

John 5:22-23

Jesus is not testing, trying and judging us now; but if he were, it would be an absolutely correct judgment, sentence and punishment in every respect, for Jesus has with him the Father who sent him.

John 8:15-16

Jesus passes no judgment, sentence and punishment without consulting the Father. Jesus tests, tries and judges as he is told by the Father. Jesus' judgment, sentence and punishment is absolutely fair and just, for it is according to the will, wish and desire, the plan, purpose and pleasure of God who sent Jesus and is not merely his own.

John 5:30

If we refuse to respect and honour God's Son, Jesus, whom the Father sent to us, then we are certainly not respecting and honouring the Father.

John 5:23

God tests, tries and judges those people who refuse and reject Jesus.

John 8:50

But all those people who refuse and reject Jesus and his message, his announcement and communication with information and advice, instructions and directions, will be tested, tried and judged at the Day of Judgment by the truths, facts and realities that Jesus has spoken.

John 12:48

But those people who don't trust Jesus, those people who don't believe in, rely on and depend upon Jesus, have already been tested, tried and condemned, that is judged, sentenced and punished to hell for not believing in the only Son of God, for not trusting in, relying on and depending upon Jesus, the only Son of God.

John 3:18

Their sentence is based on this fact: that the Light and Illumination from heaven, from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care, came into the world, but they the loved darkness more than the Light and the Illumination for their deeds and actions were evil and ungodly and against the Laws of God, as a disobedient people.

John 3:19

They hated the heavenly Light, the Illumination from heaven, from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care because they wanted to sin, to think, speak and act against God's Laws, in the darkness, as a disobedient people. They stayed away from the Light and Illumination for and out of fear that their sins, their thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws, as a disobedient people, would be exposed and that they would be punished.

John 3:20

We, the people of the world would not be guilty if Jesus had not come and spoken to us. But now we have no excuse for our sin. But now we have no approval, no

defence and no justification for our sin, for our thoughts, our speech and our actions against the Laws of God, as a disobedient people.

John 15:22

The world hates Jesus, the people of the world hate Jesus, because he accuses it, he accuses us of sin of thinking, speaking and acting against God's Laws in disobedience and because he accuses it and us of evil and ungodliness.

John 7:7

Those people who don't believe, trust in, rely on and depend upon Jesus and obey Jesus and do as he directs shall never see heaven, God the Father's Home, Rule and Care, but the wrath, the anger and judgment, the rage, fury, exasperation, indignation and resentment of God remains upon them.

John 3:36

Jesus was deeply disturbed and annoyed by their indifference, their inattention to human need, to people in distress, suffering and hardship, when they failed to help and assist them.

Mark 3:5

Then Jesus began to pour out his denunciations against the cities where he had done most of his miracles, deeds and actions, because they hadn't turned around to face God in repentance. "Woe, distress, sorrow and suffering to you, Chorazin and woe, distress and suffering to you Bethsaida!

For if the miracles, deeds and actions I did in your streets had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon their people would have repented and turned right around to face God and begun to obey God's Laws long ago in shame and humility.

Really and truly, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on the Day of Judgment than you!

And Capernaum, though highly respected and honoured shall go down into hell, the home of the damned!

For if the marvellous miracles, deeds and actions I did in you had been done in Sodom, it would still be here to day. Really and truly, Sodom will be better off on the Judgment Day than you Capernaum."

Matthew 11:20-24

"What horrors await you, you cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles, deeds and actions I did for you had been done in the cities of Tyre and Sidon, their people would have sat in deep repentance having turned right round to face God and begun to obey God's Laws long ago, clothed in sackcloth and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse, regret and sorrow. Yes, Tyre and Sidon will receive less punishment on the Judgment Day than you Chorazin and Bethsaida. And you people of Capernaum, what shall I say about you? Will you be exalted and raised to heaven, to God the Father's Home, Rule and Care? No, you shall be brought down to hell, the home of the damned!"

Luke 10:13-15

#### JESUS TRAVELS AROUND ANNOUNCING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE ARRIVAL OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Jesus began a tour of the cities and villages of Galilee to announce and preach, proclaim, publish openly and publicly and inculcate urge and impress his message and teaching upon the minds of his listeners about the coming of the Kingdom of God, God the Father's Home, Rule, and Care.

Luke 8:1

Jesus continued to travel around preaching in synagogues throughout Judea.

Luke 4:44

Jesus travelled throughout the province of Galilee, preaching in the synagogues.

Mark 1:39

Jesus travelled all through Galilee teaching, instructing and directing in the Jewish synagogues, everywhere preaching the Good News – The Good, favourable, agreeable, advantageous, gratifying and satisfying News – God’s latest announcement, communication and message with information and advice, instructions and directions about the Kingdom of Heaven, God the Father’s Home, Rule and Care.

Matthew 4:23

Jesus was sent by the Father to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God, God the Father’s Home, Rule and Care, in other places too.

Luke 4:43

### JESUS DIRECTS EVERYONE ON EARTH TO TURN ROUND, FACE GOD AND OBEY GOD’S LAWS

Jesus announced that at last the time had come. God’s Kingdom, God the Father’s Home, Rule and Care, is near, is approaching, is coming in, has arrived! Turn from your sins, stop thinking, speaking and acting against God’s Laws and act on this glorious news by obeying God’s Laws instead and doing as he directs.

Mark 1:15

Jesus began to preach and to announce, proclaim, publish openly and publicly and to inculcate, urge and impress his message and teaching upon the minds of his listeners: to preach that all people, indeed everyone, should turn from sin and stop thinking, speaking and acting against God’s Laws and turn and move right around to face God and to obey His Laws and do as He directs, for the Kingdom of God, God the Father’s Home, Rule and Care is near, is approaching, is coming in, has arrived!

Matthew 4: 17

Jesus said that they must go on to other towns as well and give his announcement and message to them too, for that is why he came.

Mark 1: 38

Jesus travelled around through all the cities and villages of that area, teaching, instructing and directing in the Jewish synagogues and announcing the Good News about the arrival of the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 9:35

Jesus used many illustrations such as parables to teach the people as much as they were ready to understand. In fact, he taught only by illustrations in his public teaching, instructing and directing, but afterwards, when he was alone with his disciples, he would explain his meaning to them.

Mark 4:33-34

Jesus constantly used parables, these stories with a meaning, when speaking to the crowds. In fact, because the prophets, God’s earlier spokesmen, said that he would use so many, he never spoke to them without at least one story. For it had been prophesied, “I will talk in parables; I will explain mysteries, obscure and secret things, hidden since the beginning of time.”

Matthew 13:34-35

Note: Parables are simple stories used to illustrate moral and spiritual principles of right and wrong in human behaviour and the goodness and badness in men and women and boys and girls. Parables are stories which illustrate how the Kingdom of Heaven operates; how God the Father’s Home, Rule and Care actually functions.

What Jesus taught, instructed and directed is widely known, for he preached regularly in the synagogue and Temple. All the Jewish leaders heard Jesus and he taught nothing in private that he didn't say in public.

John 18:20

Jesus taught, instructed and directed as one who had great authority, legal power and right to rule and control, not as the Jewish leaders taught, by quoting other authorities.

Matthew 7:29

#### JESUS THE HEALER AND HIS POWER OVER EVIL SPIRITS

Jesus healed, restored and cured every kind of sickness and disease... And whatever their illness or pain, or if they were possessed by demons, by evil spirits, or were insane or paralysed – Jesus healed, restored and cured them all.

Matthew 4:23-24

Wherever Jesus went he healed, restored and cured people of every sort of illness.

Matthew 9:35

Jesus was releasing many from the power of demons, of evil spirits.

Mark 1:39

#### SUMMARY OF JESUS' ROLE AND HIS BENEFITS TO US

Jesus says emphatically that anyone who listens to his message, announcement and communication with information and advice, instructions and directions and believes in God and trusts in, relies on and depends upon God, who sent Him, has eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality and will never be damned and condemned to hell for his or her sins, for his or her thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws, but has already passed out of death, where or she perished and ceased to live and ceased to be, into life and vitality.

Jesus solemnly declares that the time is coming, in fact it is here, when the dead shall hear his voice – the voice of the Son of God – and those people who listen shall live.

The Father has life and vitality in himself, and has granted his Son, Jesus to have life and vitality in himself and to test, try and judge the sins, the thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws of all mankind, of all human beings, of every person, because he is the Son of Man.

Jesus tells us not to be so surprised. Indeed the time is coming when all the dead people in their graves, all those people, who have perished and ceased to live and ceased to be, shall hear the voice of God's Son, Jesus and shall rise again – those people who have done good, those people who have obeyed God's Laws, to eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality; and those people who have continued in evil and ungodliness, by disobeying God's Laws, to judgment, sentence and punishment.

John 5:24-29

This is the will, wish and desire, the plan, purpose and pleasure of God, that Jesus should not lose even one of all those people God has given him, but that Jesus should raise them to eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality at the Last Day.

For it is the will, wish and desire, the plan, purpose and pleasure of the Father of Jesus that everyone who sees his Son, Jesus and believes on him, trusts in, relies on and depends upon him, should have eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality – that Jesus should raise him and her at the Last Day.

John 6:39-40

It is the will, wish and desire, the plan, purpose and pleasure of God that we believe in, trust in, rely on and depend upon the One Jesus, whom God has sent.

John 6:29

Jesus is the Way, Access, Approach and Entrance – yes, and the Truth, Fact and Reality and the Life and Vitality. No one can get to and can reach the Father except by means of Jesus.

John 14:6

Yes, Jesus is the Gate, the Entrance Way.

John 10:9

Jesus is the Entrance Way for the sheep.

John 10:7b

Those people who came in by way of the Gate, the Entrance Way, will be saved, rescued and kept secure and unharmed and will go in and out and find green pastures, with plenty of food to eat.

John 10:9

God loved the world and the peoples of the world so much that he gave his only, his unique Son, Jesus, so that anyone who believes in him, trusts in, relies on and depends upon him shall not perish and die and cease to live and cease to be but shall have eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality.

John 3:16

God the Father has sent Jesus, the Man from Heaven, the Man from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care, the Son of Man, for the very purpose of giving us eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality.

John 6:27

Jesus purpose is to give us eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality – abundantly and plentifully.

John 10:10

Jesus can give us this life and vitality, eternal, everlasting and unceasing.

John 5:40

Jesus is the one who raises the dead people, those people who have ceased to have life and vitality and gives them and gives us life and vitality again.

John 11:25

Anyone who believes in, trusts in, relies on and depends upon Jesus, even though he or she dies and perishes and ceases to live and ceases to be like anyone else, shall live and continue in being again.

John 11:25

He or she is given eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality for believing in Jesus, for trusting in, relying on and depending upon Jesus and he or she shall never perish and die and cease to live and cease to be.

John 11:26

For no one, no person can come to Jesus unless the Father, who sent Jesus, draws and attracts him or her to Jesus and, at the Last Day, Jesus will bring all such people back to life and vitality.

John 6:44

Some people will come to Jesus – those people the Father has given to Jesus – and Jesus will never, never reject them and put them aside and exclude them.

John 6:37

How earnestly Jesus tells us this, that anyone who believes in him, who trusts in, relies on and depends upon him, already has eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality.

John 6:47

Jesus gave the right, power and ability to become children of God to all those people who received him.

All they needed to do was to trust him, to believe in, rely on and depend upon him to save them, to rescue and keep them secure and unharmed.

All those people who believe this, who trust in, rely on and depend upon this, are reborn – born again, reproduced and brought into a renewed existence – not a physical rebirth, not of bloods, resulting from human passion or plan, from a natural father and mother; but from the will of God, the wish and desire, the plan, purpose and pleasure of God.

John 1:11-13

All people who trust him, all people who believe in, rely on and depend upon him – God's Son, Jesus – to save them, to rescue and keep them secure and unharmed have eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality.

John 3:36

### JESUS, THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

And now Jesus' Father offers us, holds out to us, true, real and actual Bread, Food of Life and Vitality from Heaven. The true, real and actual Bread, Food of Life and Vitality is a Person – Jesus, the one sent by God from heaven, from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care and He gives Life and Vitality to the world, to the people of the world.

John 6:32-33

Jesus is the Bread of Life, the Food of Life and Vitality. No one, no person, coming to Jesus will ever be hungry again. No one, no person, coming to Jesus will ever lack life and vitality again. Those people believing in, trusting in, relying on and depending upon Jesus will never thirst, will never lack refreshment of life and vitality again.

John 6:35

Yes, Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus is the Food of Life and Vitality.

John 6:48

There is such a thing as Bread and Food of Life and Vitality from heaven, from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care, giving eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality to everyone who eats it. And Jesus is that Living Bread, that Living Food that came down out of heaven, from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care. Anyone eating this Bread, this Food, Jesus, will live and continue in being forever.

Jesus flesh, human body and human nature, is this Bread, this Food, given to redeem humanity, given to rescue, save, deliver and liberate the people of the world from sin, from thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws and from death and damnation in hell.

John 6:50-51

With all the earnestness Jesus possesses, he tells us this: Unless we eat and consume the flesh, the human body, the human nature of the Man of Glory and drink his blood, his vital nature, we cannot have eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality within us. But anyone who does eat and consume Jesus' flesh, human body and human nature and drinks Jesus' blood and vital nature has eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality and Jesus will raise him and her at the Last Day.

For Jesus' flesh, human body and nature, is the true, real and actual food and Jesus' blood and vital nature is the true, real and actual drink.

Everyone who eats and consumes Jesus' flesh, Jesus' human body and nature and drinks Jesus' blood and vital nature is in Jesus' and Jesus is in him and her. Jesus

lives and continues in being by the power of the Living, Continuing and Sustaining Father who sent him, and in the same way those people who partake of Jesus, who participate and share in Jesus, shall live and continue to exist because of Jesus.

Jesus is the true, real and actual Bread and Food from heaven, from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care. Anyone, any person who eats and consumes this Bread, this Food, Jesus, shall live and continue in being forever and not die and expire as the Jewish fathers did – though they ate bread and food from heaven, from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care in the wilderness.

John 6:53-59

#### THE LIVING WATER

God has a wonderful gift for us. We may ask Jesus for some living water.

John 4:10

The water Jesus gives us becomes a perpetual spring within us, watering us forever with eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality.

John 4:14

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT

Only the Holy Spirit gives eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality. Those people born and produced only once with physical birth will never receive this gift of eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality. But now Jesus has told us how to get this true, real and actual spiritual life and vitality.

John 6:63

It is necessary to go to Jesus so that he can give us this life and vitality, eternal, everlasting and unceasing.

John 5:40

There is no eternal, everlasting and unceasing doom and destruction awaiting those people who trust Jesus, who believe in, rely on and depend upon Jesus to save them, to rescue and keep them secure and unharmed.

John 3:18

If we trust Jesus, if we believe in, rely on and depend upon Jesus, we are really trusting God. For when we see Jesus, we are seeing God, the One who sent Jesus.

John 12:44-45

Jesus wants us to welcome and receive him.

John 5:43

Jesus wants us to believe him, to trust in, rely on and depend upon him.

John 5:44

Jesus wants us to have God's love, liking, warm affection and friendship within us.

John 5:41-42

Jesus wants us to find rest, relief, ease, refreshment, recreation and peace for our souls, for our selves, our lives and our beings.

Matthew 11:29-30

Jesus will give us rest, relief, ease, refreshment, recreation and peace.

Matthew 11:28

Jesus wants us to wear his yoke, his harness, to live under his supreme and highest authority, power, government, management, regulation, restraint, sway, control, direction, command, rule, instruction and guidance – for it fits perfectly – it suits us and is comfortable, agreeable, delightful, pleasant and enjoyable.

Matthew 11:29-30

Jesus gives us only light burdens that are easy to carry.

Matthew 11:29-30

Jesus wants us to care about and give careful attention to the honour and respect that comes from the only God.

John 5:44

#### JESUS' DEATH AT JERUSALEM

Moses and Elijah were speaking of Jesus' death at Jerusalem to be carried out in accordance with God's plan.

Luke 9:31

The very reason why Jesus came was for what lay ahead –his death at Jerusalem.

John 12:27

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, shall also, as with John the Baptist, suffer at their hands.

Matthew 17:12

Jesus and the Twelve Disciples are going to Jerusalem. And when they get there, all the predictions of the ancient prophets, concerning Jesus, will come true.

Luke 18:31

The prophets predicted that the Messiah, the Son of Man, would suffer and be treated with contempt.

Mark 9:12-13

As Jonah was in the great fish for three days and three nights, so Jesus, the Son of Mankind, will be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:39-40

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, is going to be betrayed.

Luke 9:44

Jesus will be betrayed and crucified.

Matthew 26:2

Jesus will be betrayed to the chief priests and other Jewish leaders, and they will condemn him to die.

Matthew 20:18

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, will be arrested and taken before the chief priests and Jewish leaders, who will sentence Jesus to die.

Mark 10:33

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, is going to be betrayed and killed and, three days later, he is going to return to life and vitality again.

Mark 9:31

Jesus was going to be betrayed into the power of those who will kill him, and, on the third day afterwards, he will be brought back to life and vitality again.

Matthew 17:22-23

Then Jesus began to tell them about the terrible things he, the Son of Man, would suffer, and that he would be rejected by the elders and the Chief Priests and other Jewish leaders – and be killed, and that he would rise again three days afterwards.

Mark 8:31

Jesus began to speak plainly to his disciples about going to Jerusalem, and what would happen to him there – that he would suffer at the hands of the Jewish leaders, the elders and chief priests and scribes, that he would be killed, and that three days later he would be raised to life again.

Matthew 16:21

For Jesus, the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the Jewish leaders – the elders, chief priests and teachers of the Law – and be killed; and three days later he will come back to life and vitality again!

Luke 9:22

And they, the chief priests and other Jewish leaders, will hand Jesus over to the Roman government and he will be mocked and crucified and the third day he will rise to life and vitality again.

Matthew 20:19

Jesus will be handed over to the Gentiles to be mocked and treated shamefully and spat upon, and lashed and killed. And the third day he will rise again.

Luke 18:32-33

And hand Jesus over to the Romans to be killed. They will mock him and spit on him and flog him with their whips and kill him; but after three days he will come back to life again.

Mark 10:33-34

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often Jesus wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let him.

Matthew 23:37

Jesus' time has come; the glory of God will soon surround him – and God shall receive great praise and acclamation because of all that happens to Jesus. And God shall give Jesus his own glory, and that so very soon.

John 13:31-32

The time has come for Jesus to return to his glory in heaven. Jesus must fall and die like a grain of wheat that falls between the furrows of the earth.

Unless Jesus dies he will be alone – a single seed.

But Jesus' death will produce many new wheat grains – a plentiful harvest of new lives.

Jesus' soul was deeply troubled. Should he pray to the Father to save him from what lay ahead?

But that is the very reason why he came.

Jesus asked the Father to bring honour and glory to his name.

A voice spoke from heaven, God the Father's Home, Rule and Care saying that the Father had already done this and that he would do it again, that is, he would bring glory and honour to his name.

John 12:23-28

### JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and knows his own sheep, and they know him, just as Jesus' Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father; and Jesus lays down his life for the sheep. Jesus has other sheep, too, in another fold. He must bring them also, and they will heed, take notice of, listen to and obey his voice; and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

John 10:14-16

The Father loves Jesus because he lays down his life that he may take it back again. No one can kill Jesus without his consent – Jesus lays down his life voluntarily. For Jesus has the right and power to lay it down when he wants to and also the right and power to take it again. For the Father has given Jesus this right to lay his life down and take it again.

John 10: 17-18

Jesus said that this would be the miracle, deed and action he would do for them. Destroy this sanctuary, this holy place, actually himself, and in three days he would raise it up, he would raise himself up.

John 2:19

Concern for God's House will be Jesus' undoing.

John 2:17

The time of judgment, sentence and punishment for the world has come – and the time when Satan, the prince, the ruler of this world, this present evil and ungodly order and arrangement of things, shall be cast out, sent away and dismissed. And when Jesus is lifted up on the cross, he will attract and draw everyone to himself.

John 12:31-32

Jesus must be lifted up on a pole, so that anyone who believes in, trusts in, relies on and depends upon him will have eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality.

John 3:14-15

Look! There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the world's sin, the thoughts, speech and actions against the Laws of God.

John 1:29

Jesus, on the central cross, asked the Father to forgive, pardon, excuse and acquit the people, for they didn't know what they were doing in placing him there.

Luke 23:34

Jesus has loved us even, exactly as the Father loved him.

John 15:9

The Father has not deserted Jesus.

John 8:29

#### JESUS COMES BACK TO LIFE

Jesus isn't here in the tomb. He has come back to life and vitality again!

Luke 24:6-7

Jesus, the Nazarene – isn't here in the tomb – he has come back to life and vitality!

Look! That is where his body was lying.

Mark 16:6

#### JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE

Jesus is the true, real and actual Vine and his Father is the Gardener. The Father lops off every branch that doesn't produce, that doesn't grow anything. And the Father prunes those branches that bear fruit for even larger crops. The Father has already tended us by pruning us back for greater strength and usefulness by means of the commands Jesus gave us. We must take care to live and continue in being in Jesus and let Jesus live and continue in being in us.

John 15:1-4

#### JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS TO US

We didn't choose Jesus. Jesus chose us. He appointed us to go and produce good fruit always, so that no matter what we ask for from the Father, using Jesus' name, the Father will give it to us. Jesus demands, asks for as a right and orders that we like and love each other.

John 15:17

Jesus, the Lord and Teacher washed the disciples' feet. We ought to wash each other's feet.

John 13:14-15

As the Father has sent Jesus, even so Jesus is sending us, his followers. Jesus breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Spirit. If they forgive, pardon, excuse and acquit anyone's sins, anyone's thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws, they are forgiven, pardoned, excused and acquitted. If they refuse to forgive, pardon, excuse and acquit them, they are unforgiven, blamed, condemned, sentenced and punished.

John 20:21-23

Jesus said to his disciples that those people who welcome and gladly receive them are welcoming and gladly receiving him. And those people who reject them are rejecting him. And those people who reject him are rejecting God who sent him.

Luke 10:16

Those people who welcome and gladly receive the followers of Jesus are welcoming and gladly receiving Jesus. When they welcome and gladly receive Jesus, they are welcoming and gladly receiving God who sent Jesus.

Matthew 10:40

Truly, anyone welcoming and gladly receiving the person, whom Jesus will send, is welcoming and gladly receiving Jesus. And to welcome and gladly receive Jesus is to welcome and gladly receive the Father who sent Jesus.

John 13:20

Jesus has passed on to the disciples his followers the commands instructions and directions the Father gave him.

John 17:8

Jesus has given the disciples, the followers, the Father's commands, instructions and directions.

John 17:14

Jesus has overcome the world, the present evil and ungodly order and arrangement of things. Jesus has deprived it of its power to harm. Jesus has conquered it for us.

John 16:33

Jesus consecrates and dedicates himself to meet the need of the disciples, the followers, for growth in truth, fact and reality and holiness, godliness and moral purity.

John 17:19

There is so much more Jesus wanted to tell us, but we can't understand it now.

John 16:12

## JESUS GOES AWAY AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ARRIVES

It is best for us that Jesus goes away, for if he doesn't, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, won't come. If Jesus does go away, the Comforter will come – for Jesus will send him to us.

John 16:7

When the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, Lawyer, Intercessor, Counsellor, Protector, Helper, Strengtheners and Supporter has come, he will convince the people of the world of its and their sin, its and their thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws, and of the availability of God's goodness, and of deliverance from judgment, sentence and punishment.

The people of the world's sin, its and their thoughts, speech and actions against God's Laws, is unbelief in Jesus, that is not believing in, trusting in, relying on and depending upon Jesus.

There is righteousness, uprightness and right standing with God available because Jesus goes to the Father and we shall see Jesus no more. There is deliverance from

judgment, sentence and punishment because the prince, the ruler of this world, Satan, has already been tested, tried and judged, condemned, sentenced and punished.

John 16:8-11

If we like and love Jesus, we should obey Jesus; we should do as directed by Jesus.

Jesus will ask the Father and the Father will give us another Comforter, and the Comforter will never leave us. The Comforter is the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, Lawyer, Intercessor, Counsellor, Protector, Helper, Strengthener and Supporter, the Spirit who leads into all truth, fact and reality.

The world at large cannot receive him, for the world isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. The people of the world aren't looking for him and they don't recognize him. But we recognize him, for he lives and continues in being with us now and some day shall be in us.

No, Jesus will not abandon us or leave us as orphans – Jesus will come to us. In just a little while Jesus will be gone from this world, but Jesus will still be present with us. For Jesus will live and continue in being again and we will too. When Jesus comes back to life again, we will know that Jesus is in the Father, and we are in Jesus and Jesus is in us.

The one who obeys Jesus is the one who likes and loves Jesus. And because he or she likes and loves Jesus, Jesus' Father will like and love him or her. And Jesus will too and Jesus will reveal and disclose himself to him or her.

John 14:15-21

Jesus will only reveal and disclose himself to those people who like and love him and obey him, who do as directed by him. The Father will like and love them too. And the Father and Jesus will come to them and live and continue in being with them. Anyone who doesn't obey Jesus, who doesn't do as Jesus directs, doesn't like and love Jesus.

John 14:23-24

When the Father sends the Comforter to represent Jesus and, by the Comforter, Jesus means the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, Lawyer, Intercessor, Counsellor, Protector, Helper, Strengthener and Supporter, the Holy Spirit will teach, instruct and direct us much as well as remind us of everything Jesus himself has told us.

Jesus is leaving us with a gift, which is peace, agreement and harmony of mind and heart in the centre of our feelings, impulses, inclinations, affections and desires. And the peace Jesus gives isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. We are not to be troubled or afraid.

Remember what Jesus told us, that he is going away, but he will come back to us again. Now Jesus can go to the Father, who is greater than he is.

Jesus has told us these things before they happen, so that, when they do, we will believe in Jesus, we will trust in, rely on and depend upon Jesus. Jesus will freely do what the Father requires of him, so that the world and the people of the world will know that Jesus likes and loves the Father.

John 14:26-31

When the Holy Spirit, who is truth, fact and reality, comes he will guide us into all truth, fact and reality, for he will not be presenting his own ideas, but he will be passing on to us what he has heard. He will tell us about the future. He will praise and applaud Jesus and bring him great honour by showing us his glory. All the Father's glory belongs to Jesus. This is what Jesus means when he says that he, the Holy Spirit, will show us Jesus' glory.

John 16:13-15

Jesus will send us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, the source of all truth, fact and reality. The Holy Spirit will come to us from the Father and will tell us all about Jesus.

John 15:26

Jesus will send the Holy Spirit upon us, just as Jesus' Father promised. The Holy Spirit comes and fills us with power from heaven, from God the Father's Home, Rule and Care.

Luke 24:49

Jesus is the one who baptises, plunges and immerses with and in the Holy Spirit.

John 1:33

Jesus will baptise, plunge and immerse us with and in God's Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:8

Jesus shall baptise, plunge and immerse us with and in the Holy Spirit and with and in fire.

Matthew 3:11

Jesus will baptise, plunge and immerse us with fire, that is with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:16

Jesus is with us always, actually, even to the end of the world, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

#### JESUS' AUTHORITY – GIVER OF ETERNAL LIFE

The Father has given Jesus authority, legal power and right to rule and control, over every man and woman in all the earth. Jesus gives eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality to each one, each person, the Father has given him. And this is the way to have eternal, everlasting and unceasing life and vitality, by knowing the Father, the only true, real and actual God and Jesus Christ, the one the Father sent to earth.

Jesus brought glory and honour to the Father here on earth by doing everything the Father told him to do. Jesus asked the Father to reveal and disclose Jesus' glory, as Jesus stands in the Father's presence, the glory the Father and Jesus shared before the world began.

John 17:2-5

#### JESUS GOES TO THE FATHER

Jesus came from the Father into the world and will leave the world and return to the Father.

John 16:28

Jesus is going away to the one who sent him to earth.

John 16:5

Jesus will not be alone, for the Father is with him.

John 16:32

Jesus ascends to his Father and our Father, to his God and our God.

John 20:17

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, returns to heaven, to God the Father's Home, Rule and Care again.

John 6:62

There are many homes up there where Jesus' Father lives and Jesus is going to prepare them for our coming. When everything is ready, then Jesus will come and get us, so that we can always be with Jesus where he is. And we know where Jesus is going and how to get there.

John 14:2-4

The time is soon coming when Jesus, the Son of Man, the Man of Glory, shall be enthroned beside ALMIGHTY God.

Luke 22:69

#### JESUS WILL RETURN TO EARTH

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and we will see Jesus, the Son of Man, sitting at the right hand of God, and returning to earth in the clouds of heaven.

Mark 14:62

Yes, Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. And in the future we will see Jesus, the Son of Mankind, sitting at the right hand of God and returning on the clouds of heaven.

Matthew 26:64

Then the peoples of the earth shall see Jesus, the Son of Man, the Man from Heaven, coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Luke 21:27

Then all mankind, human beings in general will see Jesus, the Son of Mankind, coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Mark 13:26

And the people of the nations of the world will see Jesus arrive in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:30

And Jesus will send out the angels, the messengers to gather together his chosen ones from all over the world, from the farthest bounds of earth and heaven, from the four winds, from one end of heaven and earth to the other.

Mark 13:27

And Jesus shall send forth his angels with the sound of a mighty trumpet blast, and they will gather Jesus' chosen ones from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven, from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:31

Jesus, the Man of Glory, the Son of Man, will come when least expected.

Luke 12:40

When Jesus returns, we will know it beyond all doubt. It will be as evident as the lightning that flashes across the skies.

Luke 17:24

For as the lightning flashes across the sky from east to west, so shall Jesus' coming be, when he, the Son of all Mankind, returns.

Matthew 24:27

#### JESUS WILL JUDGE EACH PERSON

Jesus, the Son of Mankind, shall come with his angels, his messengers, in the glory of his Father and shall test, try and judge each person according to his or her thoughts, speech, deeds and actions and the Laws of God.

Matthew 16:27

If anyone publicly acknowledges Jesus as his or her friend, Jesus will openly acknowledge him or her as his friend before his Father in heaven. But if anyone publicly denies Jesus, Jesus will openly deny him or her before his Father in heaven.

Matthew 10:32-33

When Jesus, the Man of Glory, the Son of Man, comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels, the holy messengers, Jesus will be ashamed then of all

who are ashamed of him and ashamed of his words now. Jesus will frustrate then all people who frustrate him and his words now.

Luke 9:26

Anyone who is ashamed of and frustrates Jesus and his message in these days of unbelief, days when people lack a firm relying faith, trust, assurance, confidence, reliance, dependence, expectation and hope in Jesus and in these days of sin, days when people think, speak and act against God's Laws, Jesus, the Man of Glory, the Son of Man, will be ashamed of him or her and will frustrate him or her when he returns in the glory of his Father, with the holy angels.

Mark 8:38

Jesus, the Son of Man, will send his angels, his messengers and they will separate out of the Kingdom, out of God the Father's Home, Rule and Care, every temptation and enticement to go against God's Laws in thought, speech and action and all who are evil and ungodly, and throw them into the furnace and burn them. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, grinding of teeth and bitter disappointment.

Then the godly will shine as the sun in their Father's Kingdom, in God the Father's Home, Rule and Care.

Matthew 13:41-43

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#### OBEYING GOD THE FATHER'S WILL

Jesus said, "But I pass no judgment without consulting the Father. I judge as I am told. And my judgment is absolutely fair and just, for it is according to the will of God who sent me and is not merely my own."

John 5:30

Jesus said, "I am not judging you now; but if I were, it would be an absolutely correct judgment in every respect, for I have with me the Father who sent me."

John 8:15-16

As the crowd pressed in upon him, Jesus preached them this sermon: "These are evil times, with evil people. They keep asking for some strange happening in the skies [to prove I am the Messiah], but the only proof I will give them is a miracle like that of Jonah, whose experiences proved to the people of Nineveh that God had sent him. My similar experience will prove that God has sent me to these people."

"And at the Judgment Day the Queen of Sheba shall arise and point her finger at this generation, condemning it, for she went on a long, hard journey to listen to the wisdom of Solomon; but one far greater than Solomon is here [and few pay any attention]."

"The men of Nineveh, too, shall arise and condemn this nation, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and someone far greater than Jonah is here [but this nation won't listen]."

“No one lights a lamp and hides it. Instead, he puts it on a lamp-stand to give light to all who enter the room. Your eye lights up your inward being. A pure eye lets sunshine into your soul. A lustful eye shuts out the light and plunges you into darkness. So watch out that the sunshine isn’t blotted out. If you are filled with light within, with no dark corners, then the outside will be radiant too, as though a floodlight is beamed upon you.”

Luke 11:29-36

#### THE NEED TO BE BORN ANEW

Jesus said, “With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God.”

John 3:3

“What I am telling you so earnestly is this: Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he or she cannot enter the Kingdom of God. Men and women can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven; so don’t be surprised at my statement that you must be born again. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it will go next, so it is with the Spirit. We do not know on whom he will next bestow this life from heaven.”

John 3:5-8

#### THE SON OF MAN FROM HEAVEN

Jesus said, “I am telling you what I know and have seen ...”

John 3:10

“For only I, the Man of Heaven, have come to earth and will return to heaven again.”

John 3:13

#### TURN FROM SIN TO GOD

From then on, Jesus began to preach, “Turn from sin, and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Matthew 4:17

“At last the time has come,” Jesus announced, “God’s Kingdom is near! Turn from your sins and act on this glorious news.”

Mark 1:15

About this time he was informed that Pilate had butchered some Jews from Galilee as they were sacrificing at the Temple in Jerusalem.

“Do you think they were worse sinners than other men from Galilee?” Jesus asked.

“Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And don’t you realize that you also will perish unless you leave your evil ways and turn to God?”

“And what about the eighteen men who died when the Tower of Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? Not at all! And you, too, will perish unless you repent.”

Luke 13:1-5

#### THE FIG TREE WITHOUT FRUIT – RESPONDING TO GOD’S PATIENCE

Then Jesus used this illustration:

“A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if he could find any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally he told his gardener to cut it down. ‘I’ve waited three years and there hasn’t been a single fig!’ he said. ‘Why bother with it any longer? It’s taking up space we can use for something else.’”

“ ‘Give it one more chance,’ the gardener answered. ‘Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine; if not, I’ll cut it down.’ ”

Luke 13:6-9

#### THE LOST SHEEP

Jesus told this story:

“If you had a hundred sheep and one of them strayed away and was lost in the wilderness, wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine others to go and search for the lost one until you found it? And then you would joyfully carry it home on your shoulders. When you arrived you would call together your friends and neighbours to rejoice with you because your lost sheep was found.”

“Well, in the same way heaven will be happier over one lost sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who haven’t strayed away!”

Luke 15:3-7

#### THE LOST COIN

“Or take another illustration:

A woman has ten valuable silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and look in every corner of the house and sweep every nook and cranny until she finds it? And then won’t she call in her friends and neighbours to rejoice with her? In the same way there is joy in the presence of the angels of God when one sinner repents.”

Luke 15:8-10

#### THE LOST SON

To further illustrate the point, Jesus told them this story:

“A man had two sons. When the younger told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die,’ his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.”

“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and took a trip to a distant land, and there wasted all his money on parties and prostitutes. About the time his money was gone a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him to feed his pigs. The boy became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the swine looked good to him. And no one gave him anything.”

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired men have enough and to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired man.’ ’ “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming, and was filled with loving pity and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”

“His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and you, and am not worthy of being called your son – ’ ”

“But his father said to the slaves, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him and a jewelled ring for his finger, and shoes. And kill the calf we have in the fattening pen. We must celebrate with a feast. For this son of mine was dead and has returned to life. He was lost and is found.’ So the party began.”

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard dance music coming from the house, and asked one of the servants what was going on.”

“ ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast to celebrate his coming home again unharmed.’ ”

“The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him to. But he replied, ‘All these years I’ve worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to; and in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after spending your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have on the place.’ ”

“ ‘Look, dear son,’ his father said to him, ‘you and I are very close, and everything I have is yours. But it is right to celebrate. For he is your brother; and he was dead and has come back to life – he was lost and is found!’ ”

Luke 15:10-32

#### THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

“There was a certain rich man,” Jesus said, “who was splendidly clothed and lived each day in mirth, pleasure and luxury. One day Lazarus, a diseased beggar, was laid at his door. As he lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. Finally the beggar died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham in the place of the righteous dead. The rich man also died and was buried, and his soul went into hell. There in torment, he saw Lazarus in the far distance with Abraham.”

“ ‘Father Abraham,’ he shouted, ‘have some pity! Send Lazarus over here if only to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in these flames.’ ”

“But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us, and anyone wanting to come to you from here is stopped at its edge; and no one over there can cross to us.’ ”

“Then the rich man said, ‘O Father Abraham, then please send him to my father’s home – for I have five brothers – to warn them about this place of torment lest they come here when they die.’ ”

“But Abraham said, ‘The Scriptures have warned them again and again. Your brothers can read them any time they want to.’ ”

“The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham, they won’t bother to read them. But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will turn from their sins.’ ”

“But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t listen even though someone rises from the dead.’ ”

Luke 16:19-31

Here are some of the stories Jesus told to the people at that time:

#### A MAN WITH TWO SONS

“But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, ‘Son, go out and work on the farm today.’ ‘I won’t,’ he answered, but later he changed his

mind and went. Then the father told the youngest, 'You go!' and he said 'Yes, sir, I will,' But he didn't. Which of the two was obeying his father?"

They replied, "The first of course."

Then Jesus explained his meaning:

"Surely evil men and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. For John the Baptist told you to repent and turn to God, and you wouldn't, while very evil men and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to repent, and so you couldn't believe."

Matthew 21:28-32

#### THE LAW WAS GIVEN THROUGH MOSES BUT...

For Moses gave us only the Law with its rigid demands and merciless justice, while Jesus Christ brought us loving forgiveness as well.

John 1:17

#### THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU AND AMONG YOU

One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God begin?"

Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God isn't ushered in with visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'It has begun here in this place or there in that part of the country.' For the Kingdom of God is within you."

Luke 17:20-21

#### LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO JESUS

Little children were brought for Jesus to lay his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded those who brought them. "Don't bother him," they said." But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and don't prevent them. For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." And he put his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

Matthew 19:13-15

Once when some mothers were bringing their children to Jesus to bless them, the disciples shooed them away, telling them not to bother him.

But when Jesus saw what was happening he was very displeased with his disciples and said to them, "Let the children come to me, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as they. Don't send them away! I tell you as seriously as I know how that anyone who refuses to come to God like a little child will never be allowed into his Kingdom."

Then he took the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and he blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

One day some mothers brought their babies to him to touch and bless. But the disciples told them to go away.

Then Jesus called the children over to him and said to the disciples, "Let the little children come to me! Never send them away! For the Kingdom of God belongs to men and women who have hearts as trusting as these little children's hearts are trusting. And anyone who doesn't have their kind of faith will never get within the Kingdom's gates."

Luke 18:15-17

#### HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN

Someone came to Jesus with this question:

“Sir, what good thing shall I do to get eternal life?”

“Good?” he asked. “There is only one who is truly good – and that is God. But to answer your question, you can get to heaven if you keep the commandments.”

“Which ones?” the man asked. And Jesus replied, “Don’t kill, don’t commit adultery, don’t steal, don’t lie, honour your father and mother, and love your neighbour as yourself!”

“I’ve always obeyed every one of them,” the youth replied. “What else must I do?”

Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell everything you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

But when the young man heard this, he went away sadly, for he was very rich.

Matthew 19:16-22

As Jesus was starting out on a trip, a man came running to him and knelt down and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to get to heaven?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. But as for your question – you know the commandments: don’t kill, don’t commit adultery, don’t steal, don’t lie, don’t cheat, respect your father and mother.”

“Sir, I have never once broken a single one of those laws,” the man replied.

Jesus felt genuine love for this man as he looked at him. “You lack only one thing,” he told him; “go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor – and you shall have treasure in heaven – and come, follow me.”

Then the man’s face fell, and he went sadly away, for he was very rich.

Mark 10:17-22

Once a Jewish religious leader asked him this question: “Good sir, what shall I do to get to heaven?” “Do you realize what you are saying when you call me ‘good’?”

Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good, and no one else. But as to your question, you know what the ten commandments say – don’t commit adultery, don’t murder, don’t steal, don’t lie, honour your parents, and so on.”

The man replied, “I’ve obeyed every one of these laws since I was a small child.”

“There is still one thing you lack,” Jesus said. “Sell all you have and give the money to the poor – it will become treasure for you in heaven – and come, follow me.”

But when the man heard this he went sadly away, for he was very rich.

Luke 18:18-23

#### RICH PEOPLE AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “It is almost impossible for a rich man to get into the Kingdom of Heaven. I say it again – it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God!”

This remark confounded the disciples. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, no one. But with God, everything is possible.”

Matthew 19:23-26

Jesus watched him go, and then turned around and said to his disciples, “It is almost impossible for the rich to get into the Kingdom of God.”

This amazed them. So Jesus said it again: “How hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the Kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle (the small gate beside the large gate of Jerusalem) than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.”

The disciples were incredulous. “Then who in the world can be saved, if not a rich man?” they asked.

Jesus looked at them intently, and then said, “Without God, it is utterly impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

Mark 10:23-27

Jesus watched him go and then said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.”

Those who heard him say this exclaimed, “If it is that hard, how can *anyone* be saved?” He replied, “God can do what men can’t!”

Luke 18:24-27

“But, oh, the sorrows that await the rich. For they have their only happiness down here. They are fat and prosperous now, but a time of awful hunger is before them. Their careless laughter now means sorrow then. And what sadness is ahead for those praised by the crowds – for false prophets have always been praised.”

Luke 6:24-26

### WILL JUST A FEW BE SAVED?

Someone asked Jesus, “Will only a few be saved?”

And Jesus replied, “The door to heaven is narrow. Work hard to get in, for the truth is that many will try to enter but when the head of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. Then if you stand outside knocking, and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us,’ he will reply, ‘I do not know you.’ ”

“ ‘But we ate with you, and you taught in our streets,’ you will say.” “And he will reply, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you. You can’t come in here, guilty as you are. Go away.’ ”

“And there will be great weeping and gnashing, grinding of teeth and bitter disappointment as you stand outside and see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets within the Kingdom of God – for people will come from all over the world to take their places there. And note this: some who are despised now will be greatly honoured then; and some who are highly thought of now will be least important then.”

Luke 13:23-30

### THE NARROW GATE TO HEAVEN

Jesus said, “Heaven can be entered only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide enough for all the multitudes who choose its easy way. But the Gateway to Life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14

### JESUS IS THE GATE (THE DOOR) FOR THE SHEEP

Jesus said, “Anyone refusing to walk through the gate into a sheep-fold, who sneaks over the wall, must surely be a thief. For a shepherd comes through the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice and come to him; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. He walks ahead of them; and they follow him, for they recognize his voice. They won’t follow a stranger but will run from him, for they don’t recognize his voice.”

Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, so he explained it to them.

“I am the Gate for the sheep,” he said. “All others who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. Yes, I am the Gate. Those who came in by way of the Gate will be saved and will go in and out and find green

pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. My purpose is to give eternal life - abundantly."

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man will run when he sees the wolf coming and will leave the sheep, for they aren't his and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf leaps on them and scatters the flock. The hired man runs because he is hired and has no real concern for the sheep."

"I am the Good Shepherd and know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, in another fold. I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice; and there will be one flock with one Shepherd."

John 10:1-6 John 10:7-16

#### JESUS LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE VOLUNTARILY

Jesus said, "The Father loves me because I lay down my life that I may have it back again. No one can kill me without my consent – I lay down my life voluntarily. For I have the right and power to lay it down when I want to and also the right and power to take it again. For the Father has given me this right."

John 10:17-18

#### THE STORY OF THE GREAT FEAST – DON'T LET YOURSELF BE EXCLUDED

A man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a privilege it would be to get into the Kingdom of God!"

Jesus replied with this illustration:

"A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When all was ready, he sent his servant around to notify the guests that it was time for them to arrive. But they all began making excuses. One said he had just bought a field and wanted to inspect it, and asked to be excused. Another said he had just bought five pair of oxen and wanted to try them out. Another had just been married and for that reason couldn't come."

"The servant returned and reported to his master what they had said. His master was angry and told him to go quickly into the streets and alleys of the city to invite the beggars, crippled, lame and blind. But even then, there was still room."

" 'Well then,' said his master, 'go out into the country lanes and out behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I invited first will get even the smallest taste of what I had prepared for them.' "

Luke 14:15-24

#### A MUSTARD SEED – SMALLEST TO THE LARGEST

Here is another of Jesus' illustrations:

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but becomes the largest of plants, and grows into a tree where birds can come and find shelter."

Matthew 13:31-32

Jesus asked, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story shall I use to illustrate it? It is like a tiny mustard seed. Though this is one of the smallest of seeds, yet it grows to become one of the largest of plants, with long branches where birds can build their nests and be sheltered."

Mark 4:30-32

Now Jesus began teaching them again about the Kingdom of God:

“What is the Kingdom like?” he asked. “How can I illustrate it? It is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a garden; soon it grows into a tall bush, and the birds live among its branches. It is like yeast kneaded into dough, which works unseen until it has risen high and light.”

Luke 13:18-21

#### LEAVEN – AN IMPROVING INFLUENCE

Jesus also used this example:

“The Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a woman making bread. She takes a measure of flour and mixes in the yeast until it permeates every part of the dough.”

Matthew 13:33

#### A TREASURE IN A FIELD

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure a man discovered in a field. In his excitement, he sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field – and get the treasure, too!”

Matthew 13:44

#### A PEARL OF GREAT VALUE

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl merchant on the look-out for choice pearls. He discovered a real bargain – a pearl of great value – and sold everything he owned to purchase it.”

Matthew 13:45-46

#### A PLACE IN JESUS’ KINGDOM

A criminal on the cross with Jesus said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” And Jesus replied, “Today you will be with me in Paradise. This is a solemn promise.”

Luke 23:42-43

#### SEEING AND NOT SEEING

Jesus said, “I have come into the world to give sight to those who are spiritually blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

John 9:39

#### JESUS IS KING

Jesus said to Pilate, the Roman governor, “I am not an earthly king. If I were, my followers would have fought when the Jewish leaders arrested me. But my Kingdom is not of the world.” Pilate replied, “But you are a king then?”

“Yes,” Jesus said. “I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world. All who love the truth are my followers.”

John 18:36-37

#### SEEK THE ETERNAL LIFE

Jesus said, “But you shouldn’t be so concerned about perishable things like food. No, spend your energy seeking the eternal life that I the Man from heaven can give you. For God the Father has sent me for this very purpose.”

John 6:27

“Come to me so that I can give you this life eternal.”

John 5:40

“Then what will you think if you see me, the Son of Mankind, return to heaven again? Only the Holy Spirit gives eternal life. Those born only once with physical birth will never receive this gift. But now I have told you how to get this true spiritual Life.”

John 6:62-63

#### JESUS, THE MAN FROM HEAVEN

“These claims are true even though I make them concerning myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going.”

John 8:14

#### JESUS, THE MESSIAH

“I am the Messiah.”

John 4:26

#### JESUS, REPRESENTING HIS FATHER

“I have come to you representing my Father.”

John 5:43

“I am one witness, and my Father who sent me is the other witness.”

John 8:18

“No one can come to me unless the Father attracts him or her to me.”

John 6:65

#### TRUST GOD – TRUST JESUS

“Let not your heart be troubled. You are trusting God, now trust in me. There are many homes up there where my Father lives, and I am going to prepare them for your coming. When everything is ready then I will come and get you, so that you can always be with me where I am. If this weren't so, I would tell you plainly. And you know where I am going and how to get there.”

John 14:1-4

#### JESUS IS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

“I am the Way – yes, and the Truth and the Life. No one can get to the Father except by means of me. If you had known who I am, then you would have known who my Father is. From now on you know him – and have seen him!”

John 14:6

“Anyone who had seen me has seen the Father.”

John 14:9

“I am in the Father and the Father is in me. The words I say are not my own but are from my Father who lives in me. And he does his work through me. Just believe it – that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or else believe it because of the mighty miracles you have seen me do.”

John 14:9-11

“This is the will of God, that you believe in the one God has sent.”

John 6:29

#### JESUS RAISES THE DEAD

“I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he or she dies like anyone else shall live again. He or she is given eternal life for believing in me and shall never perish. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26

### JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

“I am the Bread of Life. No one coming to me will ever be hungry again. Those believing in me will never thirst.”

John 6:35

“Moses didn’t give it to them. My Father did. And now he offers you true Bread from heaven. The true Bread is a Person – the one sent by God from heaven, and he gives life to the world.”

John 6:32-33

“For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him or her to me, and at the Last Day I will bring all such back to life. As it is written in the Scriptures, ‘They shall all be taught of God.’ Those the Father speaks to, who learn the truth from him, will be attracted to me. (Not that anyone actually sees the Father, for only I have seen him.)”

“How earnestly I tell you this – anyone who believes in me already has eternal life! Yes, I am the Bread of Life! There was no real life from that bread from the skies, which was given to your fathers in the wilderness, for they all died. But there is such a thing as Bread from heaven giving eternal life to everyone who eats it. And I am that Living Bread that came down out of heaven. Anyone eating this Bread will live for ever; my flesh is this Bread, given to redeem humanity.”

John 6:44-51

### JESUS IS THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

“With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you eat the flesh of the Man of Glory and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. But anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him and her at the Last Day. For my flesh is the true food, and my blood is the true drink. Everyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood is in me, and I in him and her. I live by the power of the living Father who sent me, and in the same way those who partake of me shall live because of me. I am the true Bread from heaven; and anyone who eats this Bread shall live forever, and not die as your fathers did – though they ate bread from heaven.”

John 6:53-58

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water shall flow from the inmost being of anyone who believes in me.” (He was speaking of the Holy Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him; but the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet returned to his glory in heaven.)

John 7:37-39

“If you only knew what a wonderful gift God has for you, and who I am, you would ask me for some *living* water.”

John 4:10

“But the water I give becomes a perpetual spring within watering forever with eternal life.”

John 4:14

### OBTAINING ETERNAL LIFE

“I say emphatically that anyone who listens to my message and believes in God who sent me has eternal life, and will never be damned for his or her sins, but has already passed out of death into life. And I solemnly declare that the time is coming, in fact it is here, when the dead shall hear my voice – the voice of the Son of God – and those who listen shall live. The Father has life in himself, and has granted his Son to have life in himself, and to judge the sins, the thoughts, speech and actions against the Laws of God, of all mankind, of human beings in general, because he is the Son of Man. Don’t be so surprised. Indeed the time is coming when all the dead in their graves shall hear the voice of God’s Son, and shall rise again – those who have done good, to eternal life; and those who have continued in evil, to judgment.”  
John 5:24-29

### THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

Jesus as the Messiah:

“The proof is in the miracles I do in the name of my Father. But you don’t believe me because you are not part of my flock. My sheep recognize my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one shall snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else, so no one can kidnap them from me. I and the Father are one.”

John 10:25-30

“The one sanctified, set apart as holy, and sent into the world by the Father says, ‘I am the Son of God.’ Don’t believe me unless I do miracles of God. But if I do, believe them even if you don’t believe me. Then you will become convinced that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

John 10:34-38

“But I have a greater witness than John the Baptist. I refer to the miracles I do; the Father has assigned me these, and they prove that the Father has sent me. And the Father himself has also testified about me, though not appearing to you personally, or speaking to you directly.”

John 5:36-37

To Nathanael Jesus said, “You will see greater proofs than this. You will even see heaven open and the angels of God coming back and forth to me, the Man of Glory.”

John 1:50-51

### THE STORIES OF JESUS

Later that same day, Jesus left the house and went down to the shore, where an immense crowd soon gathered. He got into a boat and taught from it while the people listened on the beach. He told many stories such as this one:

Matthew 13:1-3

Once again an immense crowd gathered around him on the beach as he was teaching, so he got into a boat and sat down and talked from there. His usual method of teaching was to tell the people stories. One of them went like this:

Mark 4:1-2

One day he told this story to a large crowd that was gathering to hear him – while many others were still on the way, coming from other towns:

Luke 8:4

### A FARMER SOWING GRAIN

“ A farmer was sowing grain in his fields. As he scattered the seed across the ground, some fell beside a path, and the birds came and ate it. And some fell on rocky soil where there was little depth of earth; the plants sprang up quickly enough in the shallow soil, but the hot sun soon scorched them and they withered and died, for they had so little root. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns choked out the tender blades. But some fell on good soil, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty or even a hundred times as much as he had planted. If you have ears, listen!”

Matthew 13:2-9

“Listen! A farmer decided to sow some grain. As he scattered it across his field some of it fell on a path, and the birds came and picked it off the hard ground and ate it. Some fell on thin soil with underlying rock. It grew up quickly enough, but soon wilted beneath the hot sun and died because the roots had no nourishment in the shallow soil. Other seeds fell among thorns that shot up and crowded the young plants so that they produced no grain.”

“But some of the seeds fell into good soil and yielded thirty times as much as he had planted – some of it even sixty or a hundred times as much. If you have ears, listen!”

Mark 4:3-9

“A farmer went out to his field to sow grain. As he scattered the seed on the ground, some of it fell on a footpath and was trampled on; and the birds came and ate the seed, as it lay exposed. Other seed fell on shallow soil with rock beneath. This seed began to grow, but soon withered and died for lack of moisture. Other seed landed in thistle patches, and the young grain stalks were soon choked out. Still others fell on fertile soil; this seed grew and produced a crop a hundred times as large as he had planted.”

(As he was giving this illustration Jesus said, “If anyone has listening ears, use them now!”)

Luke 8:5-8

#### WHY USE MYSTERIOUS STORIES?

Jesus’ disciples came and asked him, “Why do you always use these obscure stories?” Then he explained to them that only they were permitted to understand about the Kingdom of Heaven, and others were not.

“For to him who has will more be given,” he told them, “and he will have great plenty; but from him who has not, even the little he has will be taken away. That is why I use these stories, so that people will hear and see but not understand.”

Matthew 13:10-13

Afterwards, when Jesus was alone with the Twelve and with his other disciples, they asked him, “What does your story mean?”

Jesus replied, “You are permitted to know some truths about the Kingdom of God that are hidden to those outside the Kingdom. As Isaiah the prophet says: ‘Though they see and hear, they will not understand or turn to God, or be forgiven for their sins.’ ”

Mark 4:10-12

Jesus’ apostles asked him what the story meant.

He replied, “God has granted you to know the meaning of these parables, for they tell a great deal about the Kingdom of God. But these crowds hear the words and do not understand, just as the ancient prophets predicted.”

Luke 8:9-10

“This fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah, ‘They hear, but don’t understand; they look, but don’t see! For their hearts are fat and heavy, and their ears are dull, and they have closed their eyes in sleep, so they won’t see and hear and understand and turn to God again, and let me heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears,

for they hear. Many a prophet and godly man has longed to see what you have seen, and hear what you have heard, but couldn't.”  
Matthew 13:14-17

#### THE EXPLANATION OF THE STORY

“Now here is the explanation of the story I told about the farmer planting grain: The hard path where some of the seeds fell represents the heart of a person who hears the Good News about the Kingdom and doesn't understand it; then Satan comes and snatches away the seeds from his heart. The shallow, rocky soil represents the heart of a man who hears the message and receives it with real joy, but he doesn't have much depth in his life, and the seeds don't root very deeply, and after a while when trouble comes, or persecution begins because of his beliefs, his enthusiasm fades, and he drops out. The ground covered with thistles represents a man who hears the message, but the cares of this life and his longing for money choke out God's Word, and he does less and less for God. The good ground represents the heart of a man who listens to the message and understands it and goes out and brings thirty, sixty or even a hundred others into the Kingdom.”

Matthew 13:18-23

“But if you can't understand *this* simple illustration, what will you do about all the others I am going to tell?”

“The farmer I talked about is anyone who brings God's message to others, trying to plant good seed within their lives. The hard pathway, where some of the seed fell, represents the hard hearts of some of those who hear God's message; Satan comes at once to try to make them forget it. The rocky soil represents the hearts of those who hear the message with joy, but, like young plants in such soil, their roots don't go very deep, and though at first they get along well, as soon as persecution begins, they wilt.”

“The thorny ground represents the hearts of people who listen to the Good News and receive it, but all too quickly the attractions of this world, and the delights of wealth, and the search for success and the lure of attractive things come in and crowd out God's message from their hearts, so that no crop is produced.”

“But the good soil represents the hearts of those who truly accept God's message and produce a plentiful harvest for God – thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as was planted in their hearts.”

Mark 4:13-20

“This is the meaning of the story: The seed is God's message to men and women. The hard path where some seed fell represents the hard hearts of those who hear the words of God, but then the devil comes and steals the words away and prevents people from believing and being saved. The stony ground represents those who enjoy listening to sermons, but somehow the message never really gets through to them and doesn't take root and grow. They know the message is true, and sort of believe it for a while; but when the hot winds of persecution blow, they lose interest. The seed among the thorns represents those who listen and believe God's words but whose faith afterwards is choked out by worry and riches and the responsibilities and pleasures of life. And so they are never able to help anyone else to believe the Good News.”

“But the good soil represents honest, good-hearted people. They listen to God's words and cling to them and steadily spread them to others who also soon believe.”

Luke 8:11-15

#### OBEYING AND DISOBEYING JESUS

“All who listen to my instructions and follow them are wise, like a man who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents, and the floods rise and the storm winds beat against his house, it won’t collapse, for it is built on rock.”

“But those who hear my instructions and ignore them are foolish, like a man who builds his house on sand. For when the rains and floods come, and the storm winds beat against his house, it will fall with a mighty crash.”

Matthew 7:24-27

“But all those who come and listen and obey me are like a man who builds a house on a strong foundation laid upon the underlying rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against the house, it stands firm, for it is strongly built.”

“But those who listen and don’t obey are like a man who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it crumbles into a heap of ruins.”

Luke 6:47-49

#### HOW WELL DO WE WORSHIP?

“The time is coming when we will no longer be concerned about whether to worship the Father here or in Jerusalem. For it’s not *where* we worship that counts, but *how well* we worship – is our worship spiritual and real? For God is Spirit, and we must have his help to worship as we should. The Father wants this kind of worship from us. We Jews know all about him, for salvation comes to the world through the Jews.”

John 4:21-24

Jesus said, “I am the Messiah.”

John 4:26

#### JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

“I am the Light of the world. So if you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, for living light will flood your path.”

John 8:12

#### THE REASON FOR JESUS GOING AWAY

“Yes, I’m telling you these things now so that when they happen you will remember I warned you. I didn’t tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer. But now I am going away to the one who sent me; and none of you seems interested in the purpose of my going; none wonders why.”

John 16:4-5

“Instead you are only filled with sorrow. But the fact of the matter is that it is best for you that I go away, for if I don’t, the Comforter won’t come. If I do, he will – for I will send him to you.”

John 16:6-7

#### THE COMFORTER, THE HOLY SPIRIT

“And when he has come he will convince the world of its sin, and of the availability of God’s goodness, and of deliverance from judgment. The world’s sin is unbelief in me; there is righteousness available because I go to the Father and you shall see me no more; there is deliverance from judgment because the prince of this world has already been judged.”

“Oh, there is so much more I want to tell you but you can’t understand it now. When the Holy Spirit, who is truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not be presenting his own ideas, but will be passing on to you what he has heard. He will tell

you about the future. He shall praise me and bring me great honour by showing you my glory. All the Father's glory is mine; this is what I mean when I say that he will show you my glory."

John 16:8-15

#### YOU ARE TO BE PERFECT

"But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Matthew 5:48

#### THE STRENGTH OF THE LAW

"That doesn't mean that the Law has lost its force in even the smallest point. It is as strong and unshakable as heaven and earth."

Luke 16:17

#### THE LAW FROM EXODUS 20:3-17 - OLD TESTAMENT

Then God issued this edict:

"I am Jehovah your God who liberated you from your slavery in Egypt.

ONE: "You may worship no other god than me."

TWO: "You shall not make yourselves any idols: any images resembling animals, birds, or fish. You must never bow to an image or worship it in any way; for I the Lord your God, am very possessive. I will not share your affection with any other god."

"And when I punish people for their sins, the punishment continues upon the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those who hate me; but I lavish my love upon thousands of those who love me and obey my commandments."

THREE: "You shall not use the name of Jehovah your God irreverently, nor use it to swear to a falsehood. You will not escape punishment if you do."

FOUR: "Remember to observe the Sabbath as a holy day. Six days a week are for your daily duties and your regular work, but the seventh day is a day of Sabbath rest before the Lord your God. On that day you are to do no work of any kind, nor shall your son, daughter, or slaves – whether men or women – or your cattle or your houseguests. For in six days the Lord made heaven, earth, and sea, and everything in them, and rested the seventh day; so he blessed the Sabbath day and set it aside for rest."

FIVE: "Honour your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you."

SIX: "You must not murder."

SEVEN: "You must not commit adultery."

EIGHT: "You must not steal."

NINE: "You must not lie."

TEN: "You must not be envious of your neighbour's house, or want to sleep with his wife, or want to own his slaves, oxen, donkeys, or anything else he has."

Exodus 20:3-17

#### THE LAW FROM DEUTERONOMY 5:6-21 – OLD TESTAMENT

"I am Jehovah your God who rescued you from slavery in Egypt."

ONE: "Never worship any god but me."

TWO: "Never make idols; don't worship images, whether of birds, animals or fish. You shall not bow down to any images nor worship them in any way, for I am the Lord your God. I am a jealous God, and I will bring the curse of a father's sins upon

even the third and fourth generation of the children of those who hate me; but I will show kindness to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

THREE: “You must never use my name to make a vow you don’t intend to keep. I will not overlook that.”

FOUR: “Keep the Sabbath day holy. This is my command. Work the other six days, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God; no work shall be done that day by you or by any of your household – your sons, daughters, servants, oxen, donkeys, or cattle; even foreigners living among you must obey this law. Everybody must rest as you do. Why should you keep the Sabbath? It is because you were slaves in Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out with a great display of miracles.”

FIVE: “Honour your father and mother (remember, this is a commandment of the Lord your God); if you do so, you shall have a long, prosperous life in the land he is giving you.”

SIX: “You must not murder.”

SEVEN: “You must not commit adultery.”

EIGHT: “You must not steal.”

NINE: “You must not tell lies.”

TEN: “You must not burn with desire for another man’s wife, nor envy him for his home, land, servants, oxen, donkeys, nor anything else he owns.”

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

#### DON’T MAKE ANY VOWS

Jesus said, “Again the Law of Moses says, ‘You shall not break your vows to God, but must fulfil them all.’ But I say: Don’t make any vows! And even to say ‘By heavens!’ is a sacred vow to God, for the heavens are God’s throne. And if you say ‘By the earth!’ it is a sacred vow, for the earth is his footstool. And don’t swear ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the capital of the great King. Don’t even swear ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. Say just a simple ‘Yes, I will’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Your word is enough. To strengthen your promise with a vow shows that something is wrong.”

Matthew 5:33-37

#### THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT

One of the Pharisees, a lawyer, spoke up: “Sir, which is the most important command in the Law of Moses?”

Jesus replied, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: ‘Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.’ All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others.”

Matthew 22:34-40

One of the teachers of religion who was standing there listening to the discussion realized that Jesus had answered well. So he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

Jesus replied, “The one that says, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only God. And you must love him with all your heart and soul and mind and strength.’ ”

“The second is: ‘You must love others as much as yourself.’ No other commandments are greater than these.”

Mark 12:28-31

The teacher of religion replied, “Sir, you have spoken a true word in saying that there is only one God and no other. And I know it is far more important to love him with all my heart and understanding and strength, and to love others as myself, than to offer all kinds of sacrifices on the altar of the temple.”

Realizing this man’s understanding, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Mark 12:32-34

And that ended their questions, for they dared ask no more.

Luke 20:40

#### TEACHING AND OBEYING GOD’S LAWS

Jesus said, “Don’t misunderstand why I have come – it isn’t to cancel the laws of Moses and the warnings of the prophets. No, I came to fulfil them, and to make them all come true. With all the earnestness I have I say: Every law in the Book will continue until its purpose is achieved. And so if anyone breaks the least commandment, and teaches others to, he shall be the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But those who teach God’s laws *and obey them* will be great in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

“But I warn you – unless your goodness is greater than that of the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders, you can’t get into the Kingdom of Heaven at all!”

Matthew 5:17-20

#### AN ADDITION TO THE RULE UNDER THE LAWS OF MOSES REGARDING ANGER

“Under the laws of Moses the rule was, ‘If you kill, you must die.’ But I have added to that rule, and tell you that if you are only *angry*, even in your own home, you are in danger of judgment! If you call your friend an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse him, you are in danger of the fires of hell.”

“So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and suddenly remember that a friend has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar and go and apologize and be reconciled to him, and then come and offer your sacrifice to God. Come to terms quickly with your enemy before it is too late and he drags you into court and you are thrown into a debtor’s cell, for you will stay there until you have paid the last amount of money due.”

Matthew 5:21-26

#### GOD KNOWS OUR EVIL HEARTS

The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, naturally scoffed at all this.

Then Jesus said to them, “You wear a noble, pious expression in public, but God knows your evil hearts. Your pretence brings you honour from the people, but it is an abomination in the sight of God.”

Luke 16:14-15

#### THE STRENGTH AND POWER OF THE LAW

“Until John the Baptist began to preach, the laws of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But John introduced the Good News that the Kingdom of God would come soon. And now eager multitudes are pressing in. But that doesn’t

mean that the Law has lost its force in even the smallest point. It is as strong and unshakable as heaven and earth.”

“So anyone who divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Luke 16:16-18

#### FURTHER TO THE LAW, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY”

“The laws of Moses said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say: Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye – even if it is your best eye! – causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. Better for part of you to be destroyed than for all of you to be cast into hell. And if your hand – even your right hand – causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. Better that than find yourself in hell.” (Note: A figure of speech – get rid of sinful thoughts to obey God. The eye stands for - desire and the hand - action.)

Matthew 5:27-30

“The law of Moses says, ‘if anyone wants to be rid of his wife, he can divorce her merely by giving her a letter of dismissal.’ But I say that a man who divorces his wife, except for unfaithfulness, causes her to commit adultery. And he who marries her commits adultery.”

Matthew 5:31-32

#### JESUS SPEAKS ABOUT DIVORCE

Some Pharisees came to interview Jesus. “Do you permit divorce?” they asked.

“Don’t you read the Scriptures?” he replied. “In them it is written that at the beginning God created man and woman, and that a man should leave his father and mother, and be forever united to his wife. The two shall become one – no longer two, but one. No man may divorce what God has joined together.”

Matthew 19:3-6

Some Pharisees came and asked him, “Do you permit divorce?”

“What did Moses say about divorce?” Jesus asked them.

“He said it was all right,” they replied. “He said that all a man has to do is write his wife a letter of dismissal.”

“And why did he say that?” Jesus asked. “I’ll tell you why – it was a concession to your hardheartedness. But it certainly isn’t God’s way. From the very first he made man and woman to be joined together permanently in marriage: therefore a man is to leave his father and mother, and he and his wife are united so that they are no longer two, but one. And no man may separate what God has joined together.”

Mark 10:2-9

“Then, why,” they asked, “did Moses say a man may divorce his wife by merely writing her a letter of dismissal?”

Jesus replied, “Moses did that in recognition of your hard and evil hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, that anyone who divorces his wife, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery.”

Matthew 19:7-9

“When a man divorces his wife to marry someone else, he commits adultery against her. And if a wife divorces her husband and remarries, she, too, commits adultery.”

Mark 10:11-12

Jesus’ disciples then said to him, “If that is how it is it is better not to marry!”

“Not everyone can accept this statement,” Jesus said. “Only those whom God helps. Some are born without the ability to marry, and some are disabled men, and some

refuse to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone who can, accept my statement.”

Matthew 19:10-12

#### WHAT TO DO TO LIVE FOREVER IN HEAVEN

One day an expert on Moses’ laws came to test Jesus’ orthodoxy by asking him this question: “Teacher, what does a man or woman need to do to live forever in heaven?”

Jesus replied, “What does Moses’ law say about it?”

“It says,” he replied, “that you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind. And you must love your neighbour just as much as you love yourself.”

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you shall live!”

The man wanted to justify (his lack of love for some kinds of people), so he asked, “Which neighbours?”

Luke 10:25-29

#### WHICH NEIGHBOURS MUST I LOVE AS MUCH AS I LOVE MYSELF?

Jesus replied with an illustration: “A Jew going on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes and money and beat him up and left him lying half dead beside the road.”

“By chance a Jewish priest came along; and when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Jewish Temple-assistant did the same thing; he, too, left him lying there.”

“But a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw him, he felt deep pity. Kneeling beside him the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his donkey and walked along beside him till they came to an inn, where he nursed him through the night. The next day he handed the innkeeper a sum of money and told him to take care of the man. ‘If his bill comes to more than the sum of money,’ he said, ‘I’ll pay the difference the next time I am here.’ “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbour to the bandit’s victim?”

The man replied, “The one who showed him some pity.”

Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

Luke 10:30-37

#### THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTER

“Not all who talk like godly people are godly. They may refer to me as ‘Lord’, but still won’t get to heaven. For the decisive question is whether they obey my Father, in heaven.”

“At the Judgment many will tell me, ‘Lord, Lord, we told others about you and used your name to cast out demons and to do many other great miracles.’ But I will reply, ‘You have never been mine. Go away, for your deeds are evil.’ ”

Matthew 7:21-23

“So why do you call me ‘Lord’ when you won’t obey me?”

Luke 6:46

#### GET RICH IN HEAVEN!

Then someone called from the crowd, “Sir, please tell my brother to divide my father’s estate with me.”

But Jesus replied, “Man, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that? Beware! Don’t always be wishing for what you don’t have.”

Then Jesus gave an illustration: “ A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. In fact, his barns were full to overflowing – he couldn’t get everything in. He thought about his problem, and finally exclaimed, ‘I know – I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “Friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy – wine, women and song for you!” ’ ”

“But God said to him, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. Then who will get it all?’ ”

“Yes, every man is a fool who gets rich on earth but not in heaven.”

Luke 12:13-21

### OBEY THE WORD OF GOD IN ALL RESPECTS

As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, “God bless your mother – the womb from which you came, and the breasts that suckled you.” Jesus replied, “Yes, but even more blessed are all who hear the Word of God and put it into practice.”

Luke 11:27-28

Then Jesus asked them, “When someone lights a lamp, does he put a box over it to shut out the light? Of course not! The light couldn’t be seen or used. A lamp is placed on a stand to shine and be useful.”

“All that is now hidden will some day come to light. If you have ears, listen! And be sure to put into practice what you hear. The more you do this, the more you will understand what I tell you. To him who has shall be given; from him who has not shall be taken away even what he has.”

Mark 4:21-25

Another time Jesus asked, “Who ever heard of someone lighting a lamp and then covering it up to keep it from shining? No, lamps are mounted in the open where they can be seen. This illustrates the fact that someday everything (in people’s hearts) shall be brought to light and made plain to all. So be careful how you listen, for whoever has, to him shall be given more; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him.”

Luke 8:16-18

### HOW TO FAST

“And now about fasting. When you fast, giving up your food for a spiritual purpose, don’t do it publicly, as the hypocrites, the pretenders do, who try to look wan, sickly and dishevelled so people will feel sorry for them. Truly, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, look your best, so that no one will suspect you are hungry, except your Father who knows every secret. And he will reward you.”

Matthew 6:16-18

### THE MATTER OF FASTING

One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, “Why don’t your disciples fast as we do and as the Pharisees do?”

“Should the bridegroom’s friends mourn and go without food while he is with them?” Jesus asked. “But the time is coming when I will be taken from them. Time enough then for them to refuse to eat.”

“And who would patch an old garment with new cloth? For the patch would tear away and make the hole worse. And who would use old wineskins to store new wine?”

The old skins would burst with the pressure, and the wine would be spilled and the skins ruined. Only new wineskins are used to store new wine. That way both are preserved.”

Matthew 9:14-17

John’s disciples and the Jewish leaders sometimes fasted, that is, went without food as part of their religion. One day they came to Jesus and asked why his disciples didn’t do this too.

Jesus replied, “Do friends of the bridegroom refuse to eat at the wedding feast? Should they be sad while he is with them? But some day he will be taken away from them, and then they will mourn. (Besides, going without food is part of the old way of doing things.) It is like patching an old garment with new cloth. What happens? The patch pulls away and leaves the hole worse than before. You know better than to put new wine into old wineskins. They would burst. The wine would be spilled out and the wine skins ruined. New wine needs fresh wineskins.”

Mark 2:18-22

Their next complaint was that Jesus’ disciples were feasting instead of fasting. “John the Baptist’s disciples are constantly going without food, and praying,” they declared, “and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are yours wining and dining?”

Jesus asked, “Do happy men fast? Do wedding guests go hungry while celebrating with the groom? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be killed; then they won’t want to eat.”

Then Jesus used this illustration: “No one tears up new cloth to make patches for old clothes, for the new garment is ruined and the old one isn’t helped when the patch tears out again. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins, for the new wine bursts the old skins, ruining the skins and spilling the wine. New wine must be put into new wineskins. But no one after drinking the old wine seems to want the fresh and the new. ‘The old ways are best,’ they say.”

Luke 5:33-39

#### ASK THE FATHER IN JESUS’ NAME

“At that time you won’t need to ask me for anything, for you can go directly to the Father and ask him, and he will give you what you ask for because you use my name. You haven’t tried this before, (but begin now). Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and your cup of joy will overflow.”

“I have spoken of these matters very guardedly, but the time will come when this will not be necessary and I will tell you plainly all about the Father. Then you will present your petitions over my signature.”

“And I won’t need to ask the Father to grant you these requests, for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from the Father.”

John 16:23-27

“Ask, and you will be given what you ask for. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the door will open. If a child asks his father for a loaf of bread, will he be given a stone instead? If he asks for fish, will he be given a poisonous snake? Of course not! And if you hard hearted, sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, won’t your Father in heaven even more certainly give good gifts to those who ask him for them?”

Matthew 7:7-11

#### THE DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PRAY

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer and to show them that they must keep praying until the answer comes.

“There was a city judge,” Jesus said, “a very godless man who had great contempt for everyone. A widow of that city came to him frequently to appeal for justice against a man who had harmed her. The judge ignored her for a while, but eventually she got on his nerves.” “ ‘I fear neither God nor man,’ he said to himself, ‘but this woman bothers me. I’m going to see that she gets justice, for she is wearing me out with her constant coming!’ ” Then the Lord said, “If even an evil judge can be worn down like that, don’t you think that God will surely give justice to his people who plead with him day and night? Yes, he will answer them quickly! But the question is: When I, the Son of Mankind, return, how many will I find who have faith (and are praying)?”

Luke 18:1-8

#### HAVE FAITH IN GOD

The disciples were utterly amazed and asked, “How did the fig tree wither so quickly?” Then Jesus told them, “Truly, if you have faith and don’t doubt, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this Mount of Olives, ‘Move over into the ocean,’ and it will. You can get anything – *anything* you ask for in prayer - if you believe.”

Matthew 21:20-22

Next morning, as they passed the fig tree Jesus had cursed, they saw that it was withered from the roots. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day, and exclaimed, “Look Teacher! The fig tree you cursed has withered!”

In reply Jesus said to the disciples, “If you only have faith in God – this is the absolute truth – you can say to this Mount of Olives, ‘Rise up and fall into the Mediterranean’ and your command will be obeyed. All that’s required is that you really believe and have no doubt! Listen to me! You can pray for *anything*, and *if you believe, you have it*; it’s yours! But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive you your sins too.”

Mark 11:20-25

(Note: With complete confidence in God, through continual prayer, aim to overcome and remove sizeable mountains of difficulty standing in the way of achieving God’s plan and purposes for and in your life of obedience.)

#### THE HUMBLE SHALL BE PRAISED

Then Jesus told this story to some people who boasted of their virtue and scorned everyone else: “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a proud, self-righteous Pharisee, and the other a cheating tax collector. The proud Pharisee ‘prayed’ this prayer: ‘Thank God, I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! For I never cheat, I don’t commit adultery, I go without food twice a week, and I give to God a tenth of everything I earn.’

But the corrupt tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed, but beat upon his chest in sorrow, exclaiming, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home forgiven! For the proud shall be humbled, but the humble shall be honoured.”

Luke 18:9-14

#### WHEN YOU PRAY SAY...

“And now about prayer. When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites, who pretend piety by praying publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. Truly, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, all alone, and shut the door behind you and pray to your Father secretly, and your Father, who knows your secrets, will reward you.”

“Don’t recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered if they are repeated again and again. Remember your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!”

“Pray along these lines: ‘Our Father in heaven, we honour your holy name. We ask that your kingdom will come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. Give us our food again today, as usual, and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. Don’t bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One. Amen.’ Your heavenly Father will forgive you if you forgive those who sin against you; but if *you* refuse to forgive *them*, *he* will not forgive *you*.”

Matthew 6:5-15

#### LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Once when Jesus had been out praying, one of his disciples came to him as he finished and said, “Lord, teach us a prayer to recite just as John taught one to his disciples.”

And this is the prayer Jesus taught them: “Father, may your name be honoured for its holiness; send your Kingdom soon. Give us our food day by day, and forgive our sins – for we have forgiven those who sinned against us. And don’t allow us to be tempted.”

Then, teaching them more about prayer, Jesus said, “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You would shout up to him, ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit and I’ve nothing to give him to eat.’ He would call down from his bedroom, ‘Please don’t ask me to get up. The door is locked for the night and we are all in bed. I just can’t help you this time.’ ”

“But I’ll tell you this – though he won’t do it as a friend, if you keep knocking long enough he will get up and give you everything you want – just because of your persistence. And so it is with prayer – keep on asking and you will keep on getting; keep on looking and you will keep on finding; knock and the door will be opened. Everyone who asks, receives; all who seek, find; and the door is opened to everyone who knocks.”

“You men who are fathers – if your boy asks for bread, do you give him a stone? If he asks for fish, do you give him a snake? If he asks for an egg, do you give him a scorpion, (a small lobster-shaped animal with a poisonous sting at the end of a jointed tail)? (Of course not!).”

“And if even sinful persons like yourselves give children what they need, don’t you realize that your heavenly Father will do at least as much, and give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for him?”

Luke 11:1-13

#### THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to come to his home for lunch and Jesus accepted the invitation. As they sat down to eat, a woman of the streets – a prostitute – heard Jesus was there and brought an exquisite flask filled with expensive perfume. Going

in, she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping until his feet were wet with her tears; and she wiped them off with her hair and kissed them and poured the perfume on them.

When Jesus' host, a Pharisee, saw what was happening and who the woman was, he said to himself, "This proves that Jesus is no prophet, for if God had really sent him, he would know what kind of woman this one is!"

Then Jesus spoke up and answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."

"All right, Teacher," Simon replied, "go ahead."

Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people – 500 to one and 50 to the other. But neither of them could pay him back, so he kindly forgave them both, letting them keep the money. Which do you suppose loved him most after that?"

"I suppose the one who had owed him the most," Simon answered.

"Correct," Jesus agreed.

Then Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman kneeling here? When I entered your home, you didn't bother to offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You refused me the customary kiss of greeting, but she has kissed my feet again and again from the time I first came in. You neglected the usual courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has covered my feet with rare perfume. Therefore her sins – and they are many – are forgiven, for she loved me much; but one who is forgiven little, shows little love."

And Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Then the men at the table said to themselves, "who does this man think he is, going around forgiving sins?"

And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Luke 7:36-50

### REALLY FORGIVE YOUR BROTHERS

Jesus said, "If a brother sins against you, go to him privately and confront him with his fault. If he listens and confesses it, you have won back a brother. But if not, then take one or two others with you and go back to him again, proving everything you say by these witnesses. If he still refuses to listen, then take your case to the church, and if the church's verdict favours you, but he won't accept it, then the church should excommunicate him. And I tell you this – whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whatever you free on earth will be freed in heaven."

"I also tell you this – if two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask for, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I will be there among them."

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Sir, how often should I forgive a brother who sins against me? Seven times?"

"No," Jesus replied, "seventy times seven!"

"The Kingdom of God can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him four million. He couldn't pay, so the king ordered him to be sold for the debt, also his wife and children and everything he had."

"But the man fell down before the king, his face in the dust, and said, 'Oh, sir, be patient with me and I will pay it all.'"

"Then the king was filled with pity for him and released him and forgave his debt."

“But when the man left the king, he went to a man who owed him about eight hundred and grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.”

“The man fell down before him and begged him to give him a little time. ‘Be patient and I will pay it,’ he begged.”

“But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and jailed until the debt would be paid in full.”

“Then the man’s friends went to the king and told him what had happened. And the king called before him the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil-hearted wretch! Here I forgave you all that tremendous debt, just because you asked me to – shouldn’t you have mercy on others, just as I had mercy on you?’ ”

“Then the angry king sent the man to the torture chamber until he had paid every last amount due. So shall my heavenly Father do to you if you refuse truly to forgive your brothers.”

Mathew 18:15-35

#### LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Jesus said, “If your eye is pure, there will be sunshine in your soul. But if your eye is clouded with evil thoughts and desires, you are in deep spiritual darkness. And oh, how deep that darkness can be!”

Matthew 6:22-23

#### DON’T WORRY

Jesus said: “So my counsel is: don’t worry about *things* – food, drink, money, and clothes. For you already have life and a body – and they are far more important than what to eat and wear. Look at the birds! They don’t worry about what to eat – they don’t need to sow or reap or store up food – for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Will all your worries add a single moment to your life?”

“And why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies. They don’t worry about theirs. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won’t he more surely care for you, O people of little faith?”

Matthew 6:25-30

#### MAKE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER FIRST AND FOREMOST IN YOUR LIFE

Jesus said, “So don’t worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For they take pride in all these things and are deeply concerned about them. But your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them. And he will gladly give them to you if you give him first place in your life.”

Matthew 6:31-33

#### CONCENTRATE ON ONE DAY AT A TIME

Jesus said, “So don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.”

Matthew 6:34

#### DON’T CRITICISE OR CONDEMN

Jesus said, “Don’t criticise, and then you won’t be criticised. For others will treat you as you treat them.”

Mathew 7:1-2

Jesus said, “Never criticise or condemn – or it will all come back on you. Go easy on others; then they will do the same for you. For if you give, you will get. Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give – large or small – will be used to measure what is given back to you.”

Luke 6:37-38

Here are some of the illustrations Jesus used in his sermons: “What good is it for one blind man to lead another? He will fall into a ditch and pull the other down with him. How can a student know more than his teacher? But if he works hard, he may learn as much.”

Luke 6:39-40

#### FIRST GET RID OF THE BEAM OF WOOD IN YOUR OWN EYE

Jesus said, “And why quibble about the speck in someone else’s eye – his little fault – when a board is in your own? How can you think of saying to him, ‘Brother, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the board in yours? Hypocrite! Pretender! First get rid of the board, and then perhaps you can see well enough to deal with his speck.”

Luke 6:41-42

Jesus said, “Why worry about a speck in the eye of a brother when you have a plank in your own? Should you say, ‘Friend, let me help you get that speck out of your eye,’ when you can’t even see because of the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Pretender! First get rid of the plank. Then you can see to help your brother. Don’t give pearls to swine! They will trample the pearls and turn and attack you.”

Matthew 7:3-6

#### THE LAWS OF MOSES IN THE FEWEST POSSIBLE WORDS

Jesus said, “Treat others as you want them to treat you.”

Luke 6:31

Jesus said, “Do for others what you want them to do for you. This is the teaching of the Laws of Moses in a nutshell.”

Matthew 7:12

#### BE TRUSTWORTHY IN SMALL MATTERS

Jesus now told this story to his disciples: “A rich man hired an accountant to handle his affairs, but soon a rumour went around that the accountant was thoroughly dishonest.”

“So his employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about your stealing from me? Get your report in order, for you are dismissed.’ ”

“The accountant thought to himself, ‘Now what? I’m finished here, I haven’t the strength to go out and dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. I know just the thing! And then I’ll have plenty of friends to take care of me when I leave!’ ”

“So he invited each one who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’ ”

“ ‘My debt is 3,400 litres of olive oil,’ the man replied.

“ ‘Yes, here is the contract you signed,’ the accountant told him. ‘Tear it up and write another one for half that much!’ ”

“ ‘And how much do you owe him?’ he asked the next man.”

“ ‘ 35,000 litres of wheat,’ was the reply.”

“ ‘Here,’ the accountant said, ‘take your note and replace it with one for only 28,000 litres!’ ”

“The rich man had to admire the rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the citizens of this world are more clever in dishonesty than the godly are. But shall I tell *you* to act that way, to buy friendship through cheating? Will this ensure your entry into an everlasting home in heaven? No! For, unless you are honest in small matters, you won’t be in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And, if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people’s money, why should you be entrusted with money of your own?”

“For neither you nor anyone else can serve two masters. You will hate one and show loyalty to the other, or else the other way around – you will be enthusiastic about one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Luke 16:1-13

#### LOVE AND SERVE GOD

Jesus said, “You cannot serve two masters: God and money. For you will hate one and love the other, or else the other way around.”

Matthew 6:24

#### BE HUMBLE

When Jesus noticed that all who came to the dinner were trying to sit near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: “If you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t always head for the best seat. For if someone more respected than you turns up, the host will bring him over to where you are sitting and say, ‘Let this man sit here instead.’ And you, embarrassed, will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table.”

“Do this instead – start at the foot; and when your host sees you he will come and say, ‘Friend, we have a better place than this for you!’ Thus you will be honoured in front of all the other guests. For everyone who tries to honour himself shall be humbled; and he who humbles himself shall be honoured.”

Luke 14:7-11

#### HOW TO BE HAPPY

“Humble men are very fortunate!” Jesus told them, “For the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them. Those who mourn are fortunate! For they shall be comforted. The meek and lowly, humble and gentle are fortunate! For the whole wide world belongs to them.”

Matthew 5:3-5

Jesus said, “Happy are those who long for justice for they shall surely have it. Happy are the kind and merciful, for they shall be shown mercy. Happy are those whose hearts are pure, for they shall see God. Happy are those who strive for peace – they shall be called the sons of God.”

Matthew 5:6-9

Jesus said, “What happiness there is for you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours! What happiness there is for you who are now hungry, for you are going to be satisfied. What happiness there is for you who weep, for the time will come when you shall laugh with joy.”

Luke 6:20-21

### WHOM TO INVITE TO DINNER

Then Jesus turned to his host, “When you give a dinner,” he said, “don’t invite friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbours. For they will return the invitation. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the godly, God will reward you for inviting those who can’t repay you.”

Luke 14:12-14

### HUMBLE YOURSELF IN LIKE MANNER OF A LITTLE CHILD

The disciples came to Jesus to ask which of them would be greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus called a small child over to him and set the little fellow down among them, and said, “Unless you turn to God from your sins and become as little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore anyone who humbles himself as this little child, is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And any one of you who welcomes a child like this because you are mine, is welcoming me and caring for me.”

Matthew 18:1-5

When they were settled in the house where they were to stay, Jesus asked them, “What were you discussing out on the road?”

But they were ashamed to answer, for they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. Jesus sat down and called them around him and said, “Anyone wanting to be the greatest must be the least – the servant of all!”

Then he placed a little child among them; and taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming my Father who sent me!”

One of his disciples, John, told him one day, “Teacher, we saw a man using your name to cast out demons; but we told him not to, for he isn’t one of our group.”

“Don’t forbid him,” Jesus said, “For no one doing miracles in my name will quickly turn against me. Anyone who isn’t against us is for us. If anyone so much as gives you a cup of water because you are Christ’s – I say this solemnly – he won’t lose his reward.”

Mark 9:33-41

Now came an argument among them as to which of them would be the greatest (in the coming Kingdom). But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he stood a little child beside him and said to them, “Anyone who takes care of a little child like this is caring for me! And whoever cares for me is caring for God who sent me. Your care for others is the measure of your greatness.” His disciple John came to him and said, “Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons. And we told him not to. After all, he isn’t in our group.”

But Jesus said, “You shouldn’t have done that. For anyone who is not against you is for you.”

Luke 9:46-50

### AVOID TEMPTING OTHERS

Jesus said, “If any of you causes one of these little ones who trust in me to lose his or her faith, it would be better for you to have a rock tied to your neck and be thrown into the sea.”

“Woe (disaster, distress, sorrow and suffering) upon the world for all its evils. Temptation (attraction to think and) do wrong is inevitable, but woe (disaster, distress, sorrow and suffering) to the man or woman who does the tempting. So if your hand or foot causes you to sin (to disobey God’s Laws), cut it off and throw it away. Better

to enter heaven crippled than to be in hell with both of your hands and feet. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out, and throw it away. Better to enter heaven with one eye than to be in hell with two.”

Matthew 18:6-9

Jesus said, “If someone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to lose his or her faith – it would be better for that man or woman if a huge millstone were tied around his or her neck and that he or she were thrown into the sea.”

“If your hand does wrong, cut it off. Better to live forever with one hand than be thrown into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands. If your foot carries you towards evil (when disobeying God’s Laws), cut it off. Better be lame and live forever than have two feet that carry you to hell.”

“And if your eye is sinful, gouge it out. Better enter the Kingdom of God half blind than to have two eyes and see the fires of hell, where the worm never dies, and the fire never goes out – where all are salted with fire. Good salt is worthless if it loses its saltiness; it can’t season anything. So don’t lose your flavour! Live in peace with each other.”

Mark 9:42-50

(Note: These figures of speech show the need for personal discipline. We must get rid of sinful desires at whatever the cost: anything that causes us to disobey God’s Laws. Here, the hand stands for action, the foot stands for conduct and the eye stands for desire.)

Jesus said, “Beware that you don’t look down upon a single one of these little children. For I tell you that in heaven their angels have constant access to my Father. And I, the Son of Mankind, came to save the lost.”

“If a man has a hundred sheep, and one wanders away and is lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others and go out into the hills to search for the lost one? And if he finds it, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine others safe at home! Just so, it is not my Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.”

Matthew 18:10-14

#### GIVE TO THOSE WHO ASK

Jesus said, “Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.”

Matthew 5:42

Jesus said, “Give what you have to anyone who asks you for it; and when things are taken away from you, don’t worry about getting them back. Treat others as you want them to treat you.”

Luke 6:30-31

Jesus said, “Take care! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired, for then you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:1

#### DO A KIND ACT SECRETLY

Jesus said, “When you give a gift to a beggar, don’t shout about it as the hypocrites, the pretenders do – blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you in all earnestness, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you do a kindness to someone, do it secretly – don’t tell your left hand what your right hand is doing. And your Father who knows all secrets will reward you.”

Matthew 6:2-4

#### MAINTAIN YOUR HIGH QUALITY OF GODLY LIVING

Jesus said, "You are the world's seasoning, to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavour, what will happen to the world? And you yourselves will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."

Matthew 5:13

#### DO GOOD THINGS TO AND FOR OTHERS

Jesus said, "You are the world's light – a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father."

Matthew 5:14-16

#### MAKE THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN BY OBEYING GOD

Jesus said, "Don't store your profits here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value, and are safe from thieves. If your profits are in heaven your heart will be there too."

Matthew 6:19-21

#### DON'T SEEK REVENGE

Jesus said, "The Law of Moses says, 'If a man gouges out another's eye, he must pay with his own eye. If a tooth gets knocked out, knock out the tooth of the one who did it.' But I say: Don't resist violence! If you are slapped on one cheek, turn the other too. If you are ordered to court, and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat too."

Matthew 5:38-40

Jesus said, "If someone slaps you on one cheek, let him slap the other too! If someone demands your coat, give him your shirt besides."

Luke 6:29

Jesus said, "If the military demand that you carry their gear for one sector, carry it for two sectors."

Matthew 5:41

#### ENDURE PERSECUTION

Jesus said, "Happy are those who are persecuted because they are good, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. When you are reviled and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers – wonderful! Be *happy* about it! Be *very glad!* for a *tremendous reward* awaits you up in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted too."

Matthew 5:10-12

Jesus said, "What happiness it is when others hate you and exclude you and insult you and smear your name because you are mine! When that happens, rejoice! Yes, leap for joy! For you will have a great reward awaiting you in heaven. And you will be in good company – the ancient prophets were treated that way too."

Luke 6:22-23

Jesus said, "For the world does hate me, because I accuse it of sin (disobeying God's Laws) and evil."

John 7:7

### LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Jesus said, “There is a saying, ‘Love your *friends* and hate your enemies.’ But I say: Love your *enemies*! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way you will be acting as true sons of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust too. If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even scoundrels, dishonest and unscrupulous persons do that much. If you are friendly only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even the heathen, the ungodly and immoral do that.”

Matthew 5:43-47

Jesus said, “Do you think you deserve credit merely for loving those who love you? Even the godless do that!”

Luke 6:32

Jesus said, “Listen, all of you. Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for the happiness of those who curse and wish to inflict harm on you; implore God’s blessing on those who hurt you.”

Luke 6:27-28

Jesus said, “And if you do good only to those who do you good – is that so wonderful? Even sinners, who disobey God’s Laws do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, what good is that? Even the most wicked, evil and morally wrong will lend to their own kind for full return.”

“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them. And don’t be concerned about the fact that they won’t repay. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as sons of God: for he is kind to the unthankful and to those who are very wicked, evil and morally wrong.”

“Try to show as much compassion as your Father does.”

Luke 6:33-36

### TAKE COURAGE WITH JESUS

Jesus said, “The time is coming – in fact, it is here – when you will be scattered, each one returning to his own home, leaving me alone. Yet I will not be alone, for the Father is with me. I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but take courage, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:32-33

### JESUS RETURNS TO THE FATHER

Jesus said, “Yes, I came from the Father into the world and will leave the world and return to the Father.”

John 16:28

Jesus said, “I am to be here a little while longer. Then I shall return to the one who sent me. You will search for me but not find me. And you won’t be able to come where I am.”

John 7:33-34

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A GROWING SEED

Jesus said, “Here is another story illustrating what the Kingdom of God is like:”

“A farmer sowed his field, and went away, and as the days went by, the seeds grew and grew without his help. For the soil made the seeds grow. First a leaf-blade pushed through, and later the wheat-heads formed and finally the grain ripened, and then the farmer came at once with his sickle and harvested it.”

Mark 4:26-29

#### THE STORY OF THE THISTLES AND THE WHEAT

Here is another illustration that Jesus used:

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer sowing good seed in his field. But one night as he slept, his enemy came and sowed thistles among the wheat. When the crop began to grow, the thistles grew too.” “The farmer’s men came and told him, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that choice seed is full of thistles!’ ” “ ‘An enemy has done it,’ he explained.” “ ‘Shall we pull out the thistles?’ they asked.” “ ‘No,’ he replied.” “ ‘You’ll hurt the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest, and I will tell the reapers to sort out the thistles and burn them, and put the wheat in the barn.’ ”

Matthew 13:24-30

Then leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples asked him to explain to them the story of the thistles and the wheat.

“All right,” he said, “I am the farmer who sows the choice seed. The field is the world, and the seed represents the people of the Kingdom; the thistles are the people belonging to Satan. The enemy who sowed the thistles among the wheat is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels.”

“Just as in this story the thistles are separated and burned, so shall it be at the end of the world: I will send my angels and they will separate out of the Kingdom every temptation, attraction to think or do wrong and all who are evil and ungodly, and throw them into the furnace and burn them. There shall be weeping and gnashing, grinding of teeth, anger and bitter disappointment. Then the godly will shine as the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Let those with ears, listen!”

Matthew 13:36-43

#### SEPARATION OF THE WICKED FROM AMONG THE RIGHTEOUS IN THE COMPLETION OF THE AGE

Jesus said, “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by a fisherman – he casts a net into the water and gathers in fish of every kind, valuable and worthless. When the net is full, he drags it up on to the beach and sits down and sorts out edible ones into crates and throws the others away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world – the angels will come and separate the wicked people from the godly, casting the wicked into the fire. There will be weeping and gnashing and grinding of teeth, anger, pain and bitter disappointment.”

Matthew 13:47-50

#### FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD, USE WELL WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN

Because Jesus was nearing Jerusalem, he told a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away.

“A nobleman living in a certain province was called away to the distant capital of the empire to be crowned king of his province. Before he left he called together ten assistants and gave them each two thousand units of money to invest while he was gone. But some of his people hated him and sent him their declaration of independence, stating that they had rebelled and would not acknowledge him as their king.”

“Upon his return he called in the men to whom he had given the money, to find out what they had done with it, and what their profits were.”

“The first man reported a tremendous gain – ten times as much as the original amount.”

“ ‘Fine!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good man. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, and as your reward, you shall be governor of ten cities.’ ”

“The next man also reported a splendid gain – five times the original amount.”

“ ‘All right!’ his master said, ‘You can be governor over five cities.’ ”

“But the third man brought back only the money he had started with. ‘I’ve kept it safe,’ he said, ‘because I was afraid you would demand my profits, for you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and even confiscating the crops that others plant!’ ‘You lazy rogue,’ the king roared. ‘Hard am I? That’s exactly how I’ll be towards you! If you knew so much about me and how tough I am, then why didn’t you deposit the money in the bank so that I could at least get some interest on it?’ ”

“Then turning to the others standing by he ordered, ‘Take the money away from him and give it to the man who earned the most.’ ”

“ ‘But, sir,’ they said, ‘he has enough already!’ ”

“ ‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘but it is always true that those who have, get more, and those who have little, soon lose even that. And now about these enemies of mine who revolted – bring them in and execute them before me.’ ”

After telling this story, Jesus went on towards Jerusalem, walking along ahead of his disciples.

Luke 19:11-28

#### MANY ARE CALLED BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN

Jesus told several other stories to show what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

“For instance,” he said, “it can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding dinner for his son. Many guests were invited, and when the banquet was ready he sent messengers to notify everyone that it was time to come. But all refused. So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘Everything is ready and the roast is in the oven. Hurry!’ ”

“But the guests he had invited merely laughed and went on about their business, one to his farm, another to his store; others beat up his messengers and treated them shamefully, even killing some of them.”

“Then the angry king sent out his army and destroyed the murderers and burned their city. And he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren’t worthy of the honour. Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.’ ”

“So the servants did, and brought in all they could find, good and bad alike; and the banquet hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests he noticed a man who wasn’t wearing the wedding robe provided for him.”

“ ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how does it happen that you are here without a wedding robe?’ And the man had no reply.”

“Then the king said to his aides, ‘Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing and grinding of teeth, anger, pain and bitter disappointment.’ For many are called but few are chosen.”

Matthew 22:1-14

#### THUS SHALL BE THE LAST FIRST AND THE FIRST LAST

Here is another story illustrating the Kingdom of Heaven.

“The owner of an estate went out early one morning to hire workers for his harvest field. He agreed to pay them a day’s wage and sent them off to work.”

“A couple of hours later he was passing a hiring hall and saw some men standing around waiting for jobs, so he sent them also into his fields, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. At noon and again around three o’clock in the afternoon he did the same thing.”

“At five o’clock that evening he was in town again and saw some more men standing around and asked them, ‘Why have you been idle all day?’ ”

“ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they replied.”

“ ‘Then go on out and join the others in my fields,’ he told them.”

“That evening he told the paymaster to call the men in and pay them, beginning with the last men first. When the men hired at five o’clock were paid, each received a full day’s wages. So when the men hired earlier came to theirs, they assumed they would receive much more. But they, too, were paid the same amount.”

“They protested, ‘Those fellows worked only one hour, and yet you’ve paid them just as much as those of us who worked all day in the scorching heat.’ ”

‘ Friend,’ he answered one of them, ‘I did you no wrong! Didn’t you agree to work at the rate for the day? Take it and go. It is my desire to pay all the same. Is it against the law to give away my money if I want to? Should you be angry because I am kind?’ And so it is that the last shall be first, and the first, last.”

Matthew 20:1-16

### CHAPTER 3 JESUS’ INSTRUCTIONS – DIRECTIONS – COMMANDS Page 62

I follow and obey Jesus

SEE: [www.christianaffirmations.info](http://www.christianaffirmations.info)

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## RELATIONSHIPS AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection after death, came to Jesus and asked, “Sir, Moses said that if a man died without children, his brother should marry the widow and their children would get all the dead man’s property. Well, we had among us a family of seven brothers. The first of these men married and then died, without children, so his widow became the second brother’s wife. This brother also died without children, and the wife was passed to the next brother, and so on until she had been the wife of each of them. And then she also died. So whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For she was the wife of all seven of them!”

Matthew 22:23-28

Then the Sadducees stepped forward – a group of men who say there is no resurrection. Here was their question:

“Sir, Moses gave us a law that when a man dies without children, the man’s brother should marry his widow and have children in his brother’s name. Well, there were seven brothers and the oldest married and died, and left no children. So the second brother married the widow, but soon he died too, and left no children. Then the next brother married her, and died without children, and so on until all were dead, and still there were no children; and last of all, the woman died too.”

“What we want to know is this: in the resurrection, whose wife will she be, for she had been the wife of each of them?”

Mark 12:18-23

Then some Sadducees – men who believed that death is the end of existence, that there is no resurrection – came to Jesus with this:

“The laws of Moses state that if a man dies without children, the man’s brother shall marry the widow and their children will legally belong to the dead man, to carry on his name. We know of a family of seven brothers. The oldest married and then died without any children. His brother married the widow and he, too, died. Still no children. And so it went, one after the other, until each of the seven had married her and died, leaving no children. Finally the woman died also. Now here is our question: Whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all of them were married to her!”

Luke 20:27-33

## NO MARRIAGE IN THE RESURRECTION

Jesus said, “Your error is caused by your ignorance of the Scriptures and of God’s power. For in the resurrection there is no marriage; everyone is as the angels in heaven. But now, as to whether there is a resurrection of the dead – don’t you ever read the Scriptures? Don’t you realize that God was speaking directly to you when he said, ‘I *am* the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’? So God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

The crowds were profoundly impressed by his answers –

Matthew 22:29-33

Jesus replied, “The trouble is that you don’t know the Scriptures, nor know the power of God. For when these seven brothers and the woman rise from the dead, they won’t be married – they will be like the angels.”

“But now as to whether there will be a resurrection – have you never read in the book of Exodus about Moses and the burning bush? God said to Moses, ‘I *am* the God of Abraham, and I *am* the God of Isaac, and I *am* the God of Jacob.’ ”

“God was telling Moses that these men, though dead for hundreds of years, were still very much alive, for he would not have said, ‘I *am* the God’ of those who don’t exist! You have made a serious error.”

Mark 12:24-27

Jesus replied, “Marriage is for people here on earth, but when those who are counted worthy of being raised from the dead get to heaven, they do not marry. And they never die again. In these respects they are like angels, and are sons of God, for they are raised up in new life from the dead.”

“But as to your real question – whether or not there is a resurrection – why, even the writings of Moses himself prove this. For when he describes how God appeared to him in the burning bush, he speaks of God as ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’. To say that the Lord is some person’s God means that person is *alive*, not dead! So from God’s point of view, all men (and women) are living.”

“Well said, sir!” remarked some experts in Jewish law who were standing there.

Luke 20:34-39

#### THE INDICATION OF JESUS’ RETURN

Later Jesus talked again about this with his disciples. “The time is coming when you will long for me to be with you even for a single day, but I won’t be here,” he said.

“Reports will reach you that I have returned and that I am in this place or that. Don’t believe it or go out to look for me. For when I return, you will know it beyond all doubt. It will be as evident as the lightning that flashes across the skies.”

Luke 17:22-24

#### CONDITIONS AT TIME OF JESUS’ RETURN

“But first I must suffer terribly and be rejected by this whole nation.”

“When I return the world will be as indifferent, inattentive, unconcerned, uninterested and apathetic to the things of God as the people were in Noah’s day. They ate and drank and married – everything just as usual right up to the day when Noah went into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

“And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot: people went about their daily business – eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building – until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and brimstone rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. Yes, it will be ‘business as usual’ right up to the hour of my return.”

“Those away from home that day must not return to pack; those in the fields must not return to town – remember what happened to Lot’s wife! Whoever clings to his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life shall save it. That night two men will be asleep in the same room, and one will be taken away, the other left. Two women will be working together at household tasks; one will be taken, the other left; and so it will be with men working side by side in the fields.”

“Lord, where will they be taken to?” the disciples asked.

Jesus replied, “Where the body is, the vultures gather!” (Note: Whenever the circumstances are realised, there the representatives of judgment come into view: the vultures, large birds of prey come swooping down from above upon any dead bodies lying on the ground.)

Luke 17:25-37

#### THE BEGINNING OF THE INTENSE AND VIOLENT PAIN AND STRUGGLE

Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone fool you. For many will come claiming to be the Messiah, and will lead many astray. When you hear of wars beginning, this does not signal my return; these must come, but the end is not yet. The nations and kingdoms of the earth will rise against each other and there will be famines and earthquakes in many places. But all this will be only the beginning of the horrors to come.”

Matthew 24:4-8

Jesus said, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, for many will come declaring themselves to be your Messiah, and will lead many astray. And wars will break out near and far, but this is not the signal of the end-time.”

“For nations and kingdoms will declare war against each other, and there will be earthquakes in many lands, and famines. These herald only the early stages of the anguish ahead.”

Mark 13:5-8

Jesus said, “Don’t let anyone mislead you. For many will come announcing themselves as the Messiah, and saying, ‘The time has come.’ But don’t believe them! And when you hear of wars and insurrections beginning, don’t panic. True, wars must come, but the end won’t follow immediately. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and famines in many lands, and epidemics, and terrifying things happening in the heavens.”

“But before all this occurs, there will be a time of special persecution, and you will be dragged into synagogues and prisons and before kings and governors for my name’s sake. But as a result, the Messiah will be widely known and honoured. Therefore, don’t be concerned about how to answer the charges against you, for I will give you the right words and such logic that none of your opponents will be able to reply.”

Luke 21:8-15

#### AN OCCASION TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS

Jesus said, “But when these things begin to happen, watch out! For you will be in great danger. You will be dragged before the courts, and beaten in the synagogues, and accused before governors and kings of being my followers. This is your opportunity to tell them the Good News. For the Good News must first be made known in every nation before the final days come. But when you are arrested and stand trial, don’t worry about what to say in your defence. Just say what God tells you to. You will not be speaking, but the Holy Spirit will.”

“Brothers will betray each other to death, fathers will betray their own children, and children will betray their parents to be killed. And everyone will hate you because you are mine. But all who endure to the end without renouncing me shall be saved.”

Mark 13:9-13

#### BY PATIENT ENDURANCE, WIN YOUR SOULS

Jesus said, “Even those closest to you – your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends – will betray you and have you arrested; and some of you will be killed. And everyone will hate you because you are mine and are called by my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. For if you stand firm, you will win your souls.”

Luke 21:16-19

#### EVENTS BEFORE THE END

Jesus said, “Then you will be tortured and killed and hated all over the world because you are mine, and many of you will fall back into sin and betray and hate each other. Many false prophets will appear and lead many astray. Sin, thoughts, speech and

actions against God's Laws will be rampant and unrestrained everywhere and will cool the love of many. But those enduring to the end shall be saved."

"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it, and then, finally, the end will come."

"So, when you see the horrible thing (told by Daniel the prophet: See Daniel 9:27 and 12:11) standing in a holy place (Note to the reader: You know what is meant!) then those in Judea must flee into the Judean hills, those on their verandas must not even go inside to pack before they flee, those in the fields should not return to their homes for their clothes."

Matthew 24:9-18

Jesus said, "When you see the 'horrible thing' standing in the Temple – reader, pay attention! – flee if you can, to the Judean hills. Hurry! If you are on your rooftop, don't go back into the house. If you are out in the fields, don't even return for your money or clothes."

Mark 13:14-16

#### JERUSALEM ENCIRCLED WITH ARMIES

Jesus said, "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you will know that the time of its destruction has arrived. Then let the people of Judea flee to the hills. Let those in Jerusalem try to escape, and those outside the city must not attempt to return. For those will be days of God's judgment, and the words of the ancient Scriptures written by the prophets will be abundantly fulfilled. Woe, distress, sorrow and suffering to expectant mothers in those days, and those with tiny babies. For there will be great distress upon this nation and wrath, extreme anger upon this people."

Luke 21:20-23

Jesus said, "And woe, distress, sorrow and suffering to pregnant women and to those with babies in those days. And pray that your flight will not be in winter, or on the Sabbath. For there will be persecution such as the world has never before seen in all its history, and will never see again. In fact, unless those days are shortened, all mankind will perish. But they will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen people."

Matthew 24:19-22

Jesus said, "Woe, distress, sorrow and suffering to pregnant women in those days, and to mothers nursing their children. And pray that your flight will not be in winter. For those will be days of such horror as have never been since the beginning of God's creation, nor will ever be again. And unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, not a soul in all the earth will survive. But for the sake of his chosen ones he will limit those days."

Mark 13:17-20

Jesus said, "They will be brutally killed, or sent away as exiles and captives to all the nations of the world; and Jerusalem shall be conquered and trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of Gentile triumph ends in God's good time."

Luke 21:24

#### THE MANNER OF JESUS' COMING

Jesus said, "Then if anyone tells you, 'The Messiah has arrived at such and such a place, or has appeared here or there, or in the village yonder,' don't believe it. For false Christs will arise, and false prophets, and will do wonderful miracles, so that if it were possible, even God's chosen ones would be deceived. See, I have warned you."

“So if someone tells you the Messiah has returned and is out in the desert, don’t bother to go out and look. Or, if someone tells you that he is hiding at a certain place, don’t believe it! For as the lightning flashes across the sky from east to west, so shall my coming be, when I, the Son of all Mankind, return. And wherever the carcass, the dead body is, there the vultures will gather.” (Note: Whenever the circumstances are realised, there the representatives of judgment come into view: the vultures, large birds of prey, come swooping down from above upon any dead bodies lying on the ground.)

Matthew 24:23-28

Jesus said, “And then if anyone tells you, ‘This is the Messiah,’ or ‘That one is,’ don’t pay any attention. For there will be many false Messiahs and false prophets who will do wonderful miracles that would deceive, if possible, even God’s own children. Take care! I have warned you!”

Mark 13:21-23

#### STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN THE SKIES

Jesus said, “Then there will be strange events in the skies – warnings, evil omens and portents in the sun, moon and stars, signs that momentous or calamitous events are about to happen; and down here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. The courage of many people will falter because of the fearful fate they see coming upon the earth, for the stability of the very heavens will be broken up.”

Luke 21:25-26

Jesus said, “After the tribulation ends, then the sun will grow dim and the moon will not shine, and the stars will fall - and the heavens will convulse and make sudden, violent, irregular movements.”

Mark 13:24-25

#### JESUS WILL COME IN A CLOUD WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY

Jesus said, “Immediately after the persecution of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will turn black, and the stars will seem to fall from the heavens, and the powers overshadowing the earth will be convulsed.”

“And then at last the signal of my coming will appear in the heavens and there will be deep mourning all around the earth. And the nations of the world will see me arrive in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And I shall send forth my angels with the sound of a mighty trumpet blast, and they will gather my chosen ones from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.”

Matthew 24:29-31

Jesus said, “Then all mankind will see me, the Son of Mankind, coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And I will send out the angels to gather together my chosen ones from all over the world – from the farthest bounds of earth and heaven.”

Mark 13:26-27

Jesus said, “Then the peoples of the earth shall see me, the Man from Heaven, coming in a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand straight and look up! For your salvation is near.”

Luke 21:27-28

#### A PARABLE FROM THE FIG TREE THAT JESUS IS NEAR

Jesus said, “Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When her branch is tender and the leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is almost here. Just so, when you see

all these things beginning to happen, you can know that my return is near, even at the doors. Then at last this age will come to its close.”

Matthew 24:32-34

Jesus said, “Now here is a lesson from a fig tree. When its buds become tender and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that spring has come. And when you see these things happening that I’ve described, you can be sure that my return is very near, that I am right at the door.”

“Yes, these are the events that will signal the end of the age, this generation.”

Mark 13:28-30

Then Jesus gave them this illustration: “Notice the fig tree, or any other tree. When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near. In the same way, when you see the events taking place that I’ve described you can be just as sure that the Kingdom of God is near.”

“I solemnly declare to you that when these things happen, the end of this age has come.”

Luke 21:29-32

#### JESUS’ WORDS WILL NEVER PASS AWAY

Jesus said, “And though all heaven and earth shall pass away, yet my words remain forever true.”

Luke 21:33

Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall disappear, but my words stand sure for ever.”

“However, no one, not even the angels in heaven, nor I myself, knows the day or hour when these things will happen; only the Father knows.”

Mark 13:31-32

Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words remain forever. But no one knows the date and hour when the end will be – not even the angels. No, nor even God’s Son. Only the Father knows.”

Matthew 24:35-36

#### THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WILL BE UNPREPARED

Jesus said, “The world will be at ease – banquets and parties and weddings – just as it was in Noah’s time before the sudden coming of the flood; people wouldn’t believe what was going to happen until the flood actually arrived and took them all away. So shall my coming be.”

“Two men will be working together in the fields, and one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be going about their household tasks; one will be taken, the other left.”

Matthew 24:37-41

Jesus said, “Watch out! Don’t let my sudden coming catch you unawares; don’t let me find you living in careless ease, carousing, drinking alcohol and enjoying oneself with others in a noisy, lively way and occupied with the problems of this life, like all the rest of the world. Keep a constant watch, be ready, fully prepared.”

Luke 21:34-36

#### BE PREPARED FOR THE LORD’S REAPPEARANCE

Jesus said, “So be prepared, for you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.”

Matthew 24:42

Jesus said, “And since you do not know when it will happen, stay alert. Be on the watch for my return.”

Mark 13:33

Jesus said, "And pray that if possible you may arrive in my presence without having to experience these horrors."

Luke 21:36

#### WATCH FOR JESUS' RETURN

Jesus said, "My coming can be compared with that of a man who went on a trip to another country. He laid out his employee's work for them to do while he was gone, and told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. Keep a sharp lookout! For you do not know when I will come, at evening, at midnight, early dawn or late daybreak. Don't let me find you sleeping. *Watch for my return!* This is my message to you and to everyone else."

Mark 13:34-37

Jesus said, "Just as a man can prevent trouble from thieves by keeping watch for them, so you can avoid trouble by always being ready for my unannounced return."

Matthew 24:43-44

#### DO YOUR WORK FAITHFULLY

Jesus said, "Are you a wise and faithful servant of the Lord? Have I given you the task of managing my household to feed my children day by day? Blessings on you if I return and find you faithfully doing your work. I will put such faithful ones in charge of everything I own."

"But if you are evil and say to yourself, 'My Lord won't be coming for a while', and begin ill-treating your fellow servants, living it up and getting drunk, your Lord will arrive unannounced and unexpected, and severely whip you and send you off to the judgment of the hypocrites, the pretenders; there will be weeping and gnashing, grinding of teeth and bitter disappointment."

Matthew 24:45-51

#### THE PARABLE OF THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS WARNS US TO BE PREPARED

Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. But only five of them were wise enough to fill their lamps with oil, while the other five were foolish and forgot."

"So, when the bridegroom was delayed, they lay down to rest until midnight, when they were roused by the shout, 'The bridegroom is coming! Come out and welcome him!'"

"All the girls jumped up and trimmed their lamps. Then the five who hadn't any oil begged the others to share with them, for their lamps were going out."

"But the others replied, 'We haven't enough. Go instead to the shops and buy some for yourselves.'"

"But while they were gone, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked."

"Later, when the other five returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Sir, open the door for us.'"

"But he called back, 'Go away! It is too late!'"

"So stay awake and be prepared, for you do not know the date or moment of my return."

Matthew 25:1-13

#### USE WELL WHAT YOU ARE GIVEN

Jesus said, “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going to another country, who called together his servants and loaned them money to invest for him while he was gone.”

“He gave 500 to one, 200 to another, and 100 to the last – dividing it in proportion to their abilities – and then left on his trip. The man who received the 500 began immediately to buy and sell with it and soon earned another 500. The man with 200 went right to work, too, and earned another 200.”

“But the man who received the 100 dug a hole in the ground and hid the money for safekeeping.”

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to him to account for his money. The man to whom he had entrusted the 500 brought him 1000.”

“His master praised him for good work. ‘You have been faithful in handling this small amount,’ he told him, ‘so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Begin the joyous tasks I have assigned to you.’ ”

“Next came the man who had received the 200, with the report, ‘Sir, you gave me 200 to use, and I have doubled it.’ ”

“ ‘Good work,’ his master said, ‘You are a good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over this small amount, so now I will give you much more.’ ”

“Then the man with the 100 came and said, ‘Sir, I knew you were a hard man, and I was afraid you would rob me of what I earned, so I hid your money in the earth and here it is!’ ”

“But his master replied, ‘You lazy rogue! Since you knew I would demand your profit, you should at least have put my money into the bank so I could have some interest. Take the money from this man and give it to the man with the 1000. For the man who uses well what he is given will be given more, and he will have abundance. But from the man who is unfaithful, even what little responsibility he has will be taken from him. And throw the useless servant out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing, grinding of teeth and bitter disappointment.’ ”

Matthew 25:14-30

#### THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Jesus said, “But when I, the Son of Mankind, shall come in my glory, and all the angels with me, then I shall sit upon my throne of glory. And all the nations shall be gathered before me. An I will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and place the sheep at my right hand, and the goats at my left.”

“Then I, the King, shall say to those on my right, ‘Come, blessed of my Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes; naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison and you visited me.’ ”

“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Sir, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you anything to drink? Or a stranger, and help you? Or naked, and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?’ ”

“And I, the King, will tell them, ‘When you did it to these my brothers, you were doing it to me!’ ”

“Then I will turn to those on my left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. For I was hungry and you wouldn’t feed me; thirsty, and you wouldn’t give me anything to drink; a stranger, and you refused me hospitality; naked, and you wouldn’t clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’ ”

“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’ ”

“And I will answer, ‘When you refused to help the least of these my brothers, you were refusing help to me.’ ”

“And they will go away into eternal punishment; but the righteous will go into everlasting life.”

Matthew 25:31-46

**Jesus will test, try and judge the nations, the peoples of the world**

**Jesus does not fight or shout, does not raise his voice, does not crush the weak**

**Or quench the smallest hope**

**Jesus will end all conflict, fighting, struggle and strife**

**With his final victory and defeat of the enemy**

**Jesus’ Name shall be the hope, desire and expectation**

**Of the entire world, of all the peoples of the world**

**Matthew 12:17-21**