



What

Did

Jesus

Say

**How does what He said
affect us?**

**Why are the words of
Jesus so important?**

**Are Jesus' sayings to be
taken literally?**

**Why should we heed
what Jesus said over
2,000 years ago?**

**How did Jesus differ
from any other man?**

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Introduction

If you read the Bible, you've probably read some or all of what Jesus said as recorded by His disciples. The King James Version prints the words of Jesus in red. It's in their red-letter edition. You just can't miss it if you follow the red letters.

This eBook is written so you can examine the words of Jesus and discover the truths He proclaimed. It's high time we listen to Jesus rather than our church doctrine, our neighbors, our family or any other voice. I say this because there are so many voices that claim to be speaking for Jesus and they are not truthful. They exaggerate, redefine or blatantly distort what is said by saying "what He really means here is this." Then they spin off into their own beliefs, explanting away the truth.

I will present a partial list of what Jesus proclaimed while here on the earth, over 2,000 years ago, and attempt to show the relevancy in our lives today. I will raise questions as to the meaning of what Jesus said and will offer my own viewpoint. However, you are still the final judge as to the truth, its application to your life and whether or not you should take it to heart.

What Did Jesus Say About Himself And Salvation

There are many Christian denominations and world religions that believe that the only way we can be saved is through righteous living and good works. Their "hang onto phrase" is..."If I try to do good and don't hurt anyone, I am ok. I am a decent person and certainly not a candidate for an eternal hell."

In this same belief system, there is no need to focus on a personal savior or way to God. Buda, Mohamed, Christ, and other religious persons are deemed to be good folk and even prophets. Therefore, if I do good and follow their example, as best I can, I will attain eternal life. This is far from the truth. Listen to what Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: *no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" John 14:6

It is obvious that Jesus identifies the Father as God and the only way to Him is through Him.

Jesus explains how this can be. He says that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He didn't say Mohammad was the way or Buda or someone else. He didn't say that your good deeds or good looks would be a point of access through which you could reach the Father. He said it was He and He only.

Maybe this Bible verse will help to clear up any doubts. This is found in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Again, it should be obvious that to gain eternal or everlasting life is to believe on God's only begotten Son. However, who is God's only begotten? Jesus tells us that it is none other than himself. Hear this...

"And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am? And they answered, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others, one of the prophets."

And he saith unto them, "But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answers and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ. And he charged them that they should tell no man of him." Mark 8:27-30

It should be noted that, "The Christ" that peter is referring to comes from a Greek word that means, "Anointed One." Messiah is from the original Hebrew that also means "Anointed One". Thus Jesus identifies Himself as the, "Anointed One." This is the same individual that was foretold by the prophets that would come from God the Father.

If I can draw a conclusion here, from these scriptures, that reveal what Jesus said, I would have to conclude that the way to God the Father is through believing in Jesus, the "Anointing One." Any other activity or belief will fail.

Just so you know, to believe in Jesus is to trust in Him, rely upon Him and to adhere to His Word. It is not an intellectual pursuit that becomes head knowledge without active faith.

Your whole heart must be committed to God and your faith centered upon Jesus as the Lord of your life. We are to move and live and have our being in Him. We are to live, not by bread alone, but every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4) This kind of belief transforms our minds and causes a new birth that brings forth a new creature. The old you will die to itself and the new man or woman will become Christ-like. It's a life changing experience.

There are a lot of fake Christians in this generation. They do not know God. Nor do they hear His voice or are filled with His Spirit. They hide behind religion and church membership without any repentance or change. I hope you realize that church membership will not get you into heaven. Being a member of the so-called, "True Church" as some have claimed, does nothing for you with respect to salvation.

Hear what one of Jesus' apostles said, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Being "Born Again"

The classic passage from the Bible that answers this question is John 3:1-21. The Lord Jesus Christ is talking to Nicodemus, a prominent Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin (the ruling body of the Jews). Nicodemus had come to Jesus at night with some questions.

As Jesus talked with Nicodemus, He said, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again"" (John 3:3-7).

The phrase "born again" literally means "born from above." Nicodemus had a real need. He needed a change of his heart—a spiritual transformation. New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes (2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1-4, 18). John 1:12, 13 indicates that being

"born again" also carries the idea of "becoming children of God" through trust in the name of Jesus Christ.

"Why Be Born Again?"

The question logically comes, "Why does a person need to be born again?" The apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:1 says, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (NKJV). To the Romans he wrote, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sinners are spiritually "dead"; when they receive spiritual life through faith in Christ, the Bible likens it to a rebirth. Only those who are born again have their sins forgiven and have a relationship with God.

How does that come to be? Ephesians 2:8-9 states, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." When one is saved, he/she has been born again, spiritually renewed, and is now a child of God by right of new birth. Trusting in Jesus Christ, the One who paid the penalty of sin when He died on the cross, is the means to be "born again." "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

If you have never trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, will you consider the prompting of the Holy Spirit now as He speaks to your heart? You need to be born again. Will you pray the prayer of repentance and become a new creation in Christ today? "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:12-13).

If you want to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and be born again, here is a sample prayer. Remember, saying this prayer or any other prayer will not save you. It is only trusting in Christ that can save you from sin. This prayer is simply a way to express to God your faith in Him and thank Him for providing for your salvation.

"God, I know that I have sinned against you and am deserving of punishment. But Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. I place my trust in You for

salvation. Thank You for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness—the gift of eternal life! Amen!" (Taken from GotQuestions.com)

There is an obvious fact here that should not be overlooked. If we all need a “New Birth” experience, that means that we all are spiritually dead. We are the walking dead, living out our lives in a state of spiritual death and cut off from God. If Jesus said we needed to be born again, then we do. I have been, “Born Again”. What about you?

What Did Jesus Say About The End of Days?

Most everyone believes that someday this earth will be destroyed and life as we know it will end. The big question is when? Folks have, for centuries, tried to set a specific date as to the end of the world. Those dates and the people that set them have all passed away. The earth is still going and will do so until God decides otherwise. However, the disciples of Jesus, like many of us, were nevertheless, curious as to the end and began to ask Jesus. Here’s what Jesus said.

The end of the world is, in the Bible, referred to as an event that happens when Jesus, (Pictured as The Son of Man), returns to the earth. Realize He spoke while He was still here, describing a future event that would happen. He related the end time event with the days of Noah. Hear what He said...

“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:39-39

Jesus said a lot in Matthew 24. You should read it all over and over again and take it to heart. Here, I have just used a portion of what Jesus said to show how life would be leading up to and during the end of all things.

1. People are eating and drinking and getting married.
2. Life is going on as it has for years.
3. There will be wars and rumors of wars.
4. People will be lovers of SELF, not God.

5. Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (Theses are false Christians)
6. Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
7. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
8. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
9. When they speak of peace and safety, sudden destruction shall come.
10. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the entire world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

All of the above are found in Matthew 24. Jesus says that theses are the beginning of sorrows as they will lead us into the great event when Jesus will return to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords to set up His kingdom.

Now let's reason together. You certainly do not want to be living on the earth when all of this takes place, right? Well, we just might be the last generation before Jesus comes. However, we can escape most of this because it is commonly known as the Judgment of God upon an unbelieving rebellious and evil generation that will not repent. If you have been "Born Again", become a new creature in Christ and repented of your sins, He will spare you. Here's why I can say this with absolute confidence...

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way". II Thessalonians. 2:7 Here's what the Lord said to me about this scripture when I was concerned about the possibility of going through His wrath upon the ungodly.

1. The mystery of Iniquity is the work of the evil one and it is hidden from most folks. They cannot understand because they error by not knowing the scriptures.
2. This evil persists from generation to generation and is getting worse as is evident by the rise in evil acts in our day.
3. He that now letteth or restrains is the Holy Spirit who, by the way, dwells in every believer.

4. The full expression of evil cannot be revealed until the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way.
5. This full expression of evil is embodied by the antichrist or wicked one as indicated in II Thess. 2:8 (And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.)

Now hear this... Jesus said that He would not leave us comfortless but would send us His Holy Spirit. If He is taken out of the way, what happens to us? If we don't go with the Holy Spirit, we will be left comfortless. Thus we are bound by God's Word to leave when the Spirit goes. Plus, Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:30 that we are sealed unto the day of redemption. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you are **sealed unto the day of redemption**".

As I see it, this is our day of redemption, when the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way and we go with Him. Some folks call this the rapture. In any event, we will not be left behind to suffer the wrath of God. However, fake Christians and religious groups that deny the deity of Jesus and reject His words will remain. I believe there will be many so called Christians that will be left behind as well as denominations and groups that think they are the "True Church" and you must belong or burn. God help them to see before it's too late.

What Did Jesus Say About Heaven & Hell

Jesus said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." **Matthew 10:28** He believed in a literal hell where the lost would be punished for all eternity. The fact that He told His disciples and the crowds that followed Him testifies to the desire for Jesus to make us aware so we do not end up there.

There is a punishment for sinners who refuse to repent. In **Revelation 20:13-15** we read of a resurrection of the dead where people will be judged, "*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*" (These are the folks that willingly rejected Jesus, God's only begotten Son, as the sacrifice for their sin.) When you are, "Born Again" your name is

written in the Lamb's Book of Life. If your name is not there, you are counted with the wicked, no matter what good you may have done while alive. Being a Saint and being "Born Again" is not determined by what you do or don't do. It is determined on what Jesus did. He lived a perfect life in accordance to God's law and as the perfect Lamb of God, without blemish, became the sacrificed, on the cross of Calvary, as the penalty for sin. This is the essence of the Gospel or Good News. Paul, the apostle put it this way, "For by grace (Unmerited Favor) are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God." **Ephesians 2:8**

The punishment of the wicked dead in hell is described throughout Scripture as **"eternal fire" (Matthew 25:41), "unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:12), "shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2), a place where "the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44-49), a place of "torment" and "fire" (Luke 16:23-24), "everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:9), a place where "the smoke of torment rises forever and ever" (Revelation 14:10-11), and a "lake of burning sulfur" where the wicked are "tormented day and night, forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).**

Hell is not a place we want to go, yet countless millions ignore the truth to do their own thing and laugh at the idea of hell and ending up there one day.

Jesus Talks About Heaven

Surprisingly, Jesus said very little about Heaven. He spoke more about eternal life and how one can enter Heaven than He did about the place of Heaven. Jesus did make a direct reference about Heaven when He comforted the disciples with these words: John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:3 and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

With those words, Jesus revealed that Heaven is a real place and that it is the dwelling place of God (His Father's house). Nineteen times Jesus made reference to God the Father dwelling in Heaven: Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Mat 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Mat 5:48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Matthew 6:1 Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Mat 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Mat 7:11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Mat 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Mat 10:32 Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. Mat 10:33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. Mat 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother. Mat 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 18:10 Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. Mat 18:14 Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. Mat 18:19 Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. Mat 23:9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Mark 11:25 and whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. Mark 11:26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Mark 13:32 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Luke 11:2 So He said to them, When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus also demonstrated that Heaven is the dwelling place of God, when He “lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee” (John 17:1). And, Jesus proclaimed that God reigns in Heaven with these words: I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth...(Mat 11:25). I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth... (Luke 10:21) Heaven is a place of joy, rewards, and treasures: Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven...

Mat 6:19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal Mat 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. Luke 6:23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward *is* great in heaven...

Luke 15:7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. (Excerpts from www.GodQuestions.com)

What Did Jesus Say About Being Deceived

Deception is a big part of life these days. There is false advertising, false news stories, and false statements by leaders in government or church and so on. We are constantly challenged to search for the truth. Those who do not pay attention fall prey to lies and deceptions that are aimed at destroying the fabric of society and values of today’s moral majority. Listen to what Jesus said to His disciples...

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” Matthew 24:4-5

Jesus wanted His disciples to know who He really was, the Christ of God. He also wants us to know Him for who He really is, the Son of the living God, the Savior of our souls, and the Lord of our lives. If we are not sure of Him, we could easily fall prey to a deceiver that claims to be Him.

Now, lets put it in a clear perspective... There are a lot of folks that claim to be a Christian but have no idea what that means. They belong to a liberal thinking church that denies the incarnation of Christ, rejects the blood atonement of Jesus, and follows a belief that eternal life can be obtained through good works, not the finished work of Christ on the cross. These folks are deceivers, false teachers and surely a portrait of what Jesus said in Matthew 24:4-5. They come in the name of Jesus professing to be a believer and deceive many, even converting them to their way of thinking.

Note that Jesus said that these folks were men, not demons or angels. That means they can be co-workers, Sunday school teachers, parents, friends and most any other person in your life. Beware of them, says Jesus.

Here are a few other scriptures that talk about deceivers.

Romans 16:18...For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 ...Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

Colossians 2:4...I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

1 Timothy 4:1 ...But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

Mark 13:22 ...for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

2 Timothy 3:13...But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Corinthians 11:14 ...No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:3 ...But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

What Jesus Said About Faith

Jesus said a lot about faith. When dealing with some blind men, here's what He said, "Then touched he their eyes, saying, according to your faith, be it unto you. Matthew 9:29

According to your faith is the same as according to your belief. If you believe that Jesus can heal, He can. If you trust in Him as Lord and Savior, then He will be Lord and Savior with the full authority to open your eyes. It's all about trusting Him and believing He will do what He said He would do.

The blind man believed and was healed. Abraham believed and it was accounted unto him for righteousness. Faith is all about you and how you think. Listen to Jesus when they asked Jesus to increase their faith...

"And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." Luke 17:6

Note that Jesus is telling them that they need faith but it does not have to be great faith. It just needs to be as small as the smallest seed on earth and it will still do the job. The key is to exercise your faith by putting it to the test.

Here are a few scriptures that speak about faith. Meditate on them and let them become a part of your daily thinking. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth that each one holds.

1. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1
2. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." II Corinthians 5:7
3. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." James 1:6

4. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6
5. “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.” James 1:3
6. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.: I John 5:4
7. “But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.” I Timothy 6:11
8. “And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.” Mark 10:52
9. “Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.” Hebrews 11:11
10. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” Galations 3:26
11. “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1: 17
12. “For by *grace* are ye *saved through faith*; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

What Did Jesus Say About Prayer

Jesus said a lot about Prayer. But He also demonstrated how to pray before His disciples. Listen to what He taught...

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others.” Matthew 6:5

Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will

be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Matthew 6:5-8

“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Matthew 26:41 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.” Matthew 6:7

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24

“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Luke 11:9

“Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” Matthew 6:9-13

“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:19-20

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:35-38

“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” Luke 18:1-8

“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” John 14:13

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’”

“ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:10-14

Prayer is a direct communication with our Heavenly Father. It’s like we have a private line. That open line of communication should be used all the time. It cannot sit idle because if it does not get used you do not hear from God and have no direction. Jesus wanted us to talk to God and Him and the Holy Spirit. Don’t be afraid to talk with God. He loves you.

What Did Jesus Say About Persecution

Times have changed. Years ago we had no problems openly confessing Jesus as our Savior and admitting that we are Christians. However today it is politically incorrect in America and most other places in the world. Some countries even kill Christians like it was a sport.

Much of today’s persecution is delivered by way of ridicule, rejection and harassment. We are targets of Satan who shoots fiery darts laden with accusations and lies. However, Jesus never promised us a rose garden. Instead, He spoke on this wise... (NIV Translation)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:10

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.: Matthew 5:44

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.” John 5:18

“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.” Luke 6:22

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30

Persecution is the systematic mistreatment of an individual or group by another individual or group. The most common forms are religious *persecution*, racism and political *persecution*, though there is naturally some overlap between these terms.

Jesus said that we, like Him, will suffer persecution. He does leave us a possible weapon. It is the practice of forgiving our persecutors (Eminies) and praying for them. (Matthew 5:44)

This forgiveness thing is powerful. It keeps us from becoming a victim or ending up as a persecutor of others. We keep our hearts in tune with God, who loves all people and doesn't want any to perrish. Read what Peter said...

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” II Peter 3:9

What Did Jesus Say About Forgiveness

(Excerpt from BIBLEBLOG)

Forgiving people who've wronged us is one of the most difficult things God asks us to do. Minor insults and slights can be easier to forgive, but what if the offense against you is so painful that it seems unpardonable? How can you forgive someone who broke your heart or hurt someone you love?

Thankfully, we have the perfect example of forgiveness in Jesus, who, while in agony on the cross, said, "Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing." (Luke 23.34 GNTD)

Jesus makes it clear that we must model our forgiveness of others on God's forgiveness of our sins.

Here are a few lines from Scripture in which Jesus talks about the grace of forgiveness and why it's essential:

1. "If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done." -- Matthew 6.14-15 GNTD
2. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in one day, and each time he comes to you saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." Luke 17.3-4 GNTD
3. "And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done." --Mark 11.25 GNTD
4. "Do not judge others, and God will not judge you; do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others, and God will forgive you." -- Luke 6.37 GNTD
5. "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?' 'No, not seven times,' answered Jesus, 'but seventy times seven...'" -- Matthew 18.21-22 GNTD
6. "Drink it, all of you; this is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." -- Matthew 26.27-29 GNTD

Forgive & Forget (Excerpts from GotQuestions.com)

The phrase "forgive and forget" is not found in the Bible. However, there are numerous verses commanding us to "forgive one another" (e.g., Matthew 6:14 and Ephesians 4:32). A Christian who is not willing to forgive others will find his fellowship with God hindered (Matthew 6:15) and can reap bitterness and the loss of reward (Hebrews 12:14-15; 2 John 1:8).

Forgiveness is a decision of the will. Since God commands us to forgive, we

must make a conscious choice to obey God and forgive. The offender may not desire forgiveness and may not ever change, but that doesn't negate God's desire that we possess a forgiving spirit (Matthew 5:44). Ideally, the offender will seek reconciliation, but, if not, the one wronged can still make a decision to forgive.

Of course, it is impossible to truly forget sins that have been committed against us. We cannot selectively "delete" events from our memory. The Bible states that God does not "remember" our wickedness (Hebrews 8:12). But God is still all-knowing. God remembers that we have "sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). But, having been forgiven, we are positionally (or judicially) justified. Heaven is ours, as if our sin had never occurred. If we belong to Him through faith in Christ, God does not condemn us for our sins (Romans 8:1). In that sense God "forgives and forgets."

If by "forgive and forget" one means, "I choose to forgive the offender for the sake of Christ and move on with my life," then this is a wise and godly course of action. As much as possible, we should forget what is behind and strive toward what is ahead (Philippians 3:13). We should forgive each other "just as in Christ God forgave" (Ephesians 4:32). We must not allow a root of bitterness to spring up in our hearts (Hebrews 12:15).

However, on the other hand, if by "forgive and forget" one means, "I will act as if the sin had never occurred and live as if I don't remember it," then we can run into trouble. For example, a rape victim can choose to forgive the rapist, but that does *not* mean she should act as if that sin had never happened. To spend time alone with the rapist, especially if he is unrepentant, is not what Scripture teaches.

Forgiveness involves not holding a sin against a person any longer, but forgiveness is different from trust. It is wise to take precautions, and sometimes the dynamics of a relationship will have to change. "The prudent see danger and take refuge, / but the simple keep going and pay the penalty" (Proverbs 22:3). Jesus told His followers to "be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). In the context of keeping company with unrepentant sinners, we must be "innocent" (willing to forgive) yet at the same time "shrewd" (being cautious).

The ideal is to forgive and forget. Love keeps no record of wrongs

(1 Corinthians 13:5) and covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). However, changing hearts is God's business, and, until an offender has a true, supernatural heart change, it is only wise to limit the level of trust one places in that person. Being cautious doesn't mean we haven't forgiven. It simply means we are not God and we cannot see that person's heart.

Arm's Length

The Lord showed me a truth a while back about "Forgive & Forget." He said, "John?, keep that offender at arm's length." I realized that most offenders are folks that get too close to me. I had a habit of letting them in without them earning a place at my table. As a result, they, the offenders, took advantage of me creating an offence.

Now I hold everyone at "Arm's Length" and observe them to see if their fruits are of the kind that God approves of. They remain superficial acquaintances until they prove themselves. If they engage in actions that offend me, I leave them behind with a prayer and go on with what God has called me to do.

Here's an "If" situation... "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" I John 1:9 If we do not forgive, we risk the chastisement of God. It is always better to forgive, knowing that the blood of Christ continually cleanses us. To do otherwise is an insult to His suffering on the cross.

What Did Jesus Say About Evil

There are a lot of folks that do not believe in the existence of a being that is evil. They think that evil comes from the hearts of men and women, boys and girls but not a supernatural being. Jesus spoke at length about this evil being. In fact, the Bible has many different names for him including:

- Lucifer, meaning "Morning Star" (Isaiah 14:12)

- Ruler of The Demons (Matthew 12:24)
- god of This World (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- Devil/Accuser (Matthew 4:1)
- Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2:2)
- Roaring Lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- Serpent (Genesis 3:1)
- Dragon (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
- Adversary (Job 1)
- The Tempter (Matthew 4:3)
- The Anointed Cherub that covers (Ezekiel 28:14)
- Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24)
- Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15)
- Wicked One (Matthew 13:19)

Lord of the Flies, the Antichrist and Father of Lies are also used to describe this evil being. Jesus referred to him as a thief, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Peter called him our adversary, the devil. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” I Peter 5:8-9

It’s commonly thought that the devil first showed up in the Bible in the book of Genesis as the serpent who convinced Eve—who then convinced Adam—to eat forbidden fruit from the “tree of the knowledge” in the Garden of Eden. As the story goes, after Eve fell for the Devil’s conniving ways, she and Adam were banished from the Garden of Eden and doomed to mortality.

Many Christians believe the devil was once a beautiful angel named Lucifer who defied God and fell from grace. This assumption is often based the book of Isaiah in the Bible which says, “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations.”

The Devil makes more appearances in the Bible, especially in the New Testament. Jesus and many of his apostles warned people to stay alert for the devil’s cunning enticements that would lead them to ruin. And it was the

devil who tempted Jesus in the wilderness to “fall down and worship him” in exchange for riches and glory.

Perhaps the most lasting images of the devil are associated with Hell, which the Bible refers to as a place of everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Still, the Bible doesn't state the devil will reign over hell, just that he'll eventually be banished there.

Throughout history, the devil's reputation as an evildoer hasn't changed much. Most Christians still believe he's literally transformed the world and is responsible for much of the world's corruption and chaos.

What's important to realize is that this evil being is a defeated foe. That is evident from what the scriptures say...

Jesus Christ came for two purposes, «...to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10)», and «that he might destroy the works of the devil (1st John 3:8)»... And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:15)

This is why Peter says we can stand up to that "Roaring Lion"; resist him and he will flee from you...because he has no power over us except what we give him. I Peter 5:8

What Did Jesus Say About Life After Death

Jesus said a lot about life after death. He knew we would one day experience it. The question remains, “Where shall we dwell when our spirits depart for the “Hereafter?” Will we speed off into blissful joy as a new citizen of heaven? Or will we descend into a fiery hell to be tormented forever? The choice is ours. God sends no soul to everlasting torment. We, from our own free will, select that destination by the rejection of the finished work of Christ on the cross. That finished work was to die for our sins so we could live an abundant life with God. Here's what Jesus said about life after death...

1. “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28

2. “Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” Hebrews 9:27
3. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16
4. “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” John 5:24
5. “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;” John 11:25
6. “My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:2-3

I think Paul summed it up best when he wrote to one of the churches. Here’s what he told them...I Thessalonians 4:14-18 NIV

“For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. **15** According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Conclusion

I am sure that there is a lot more that Jesus said while walking on the shores of Gallilee and through the cities of Israel but I will stop here and let you search for the rest through daily Bible readings.

We have looked at and discussed: Jesus and Salvation, The End of Days, Heaven and Hell, Being Deceived, Faith, Prayer, Persecution, Forgiveness, The Evil One and Life After Death.

All of what Jesus said makes our lives more worthwhile. The affect on our day to day living is a new perspective that brings peace, purpose and empowerment.

This is why we should read the Bible... so we can find life and liberty. I believe we are to take the teaching of Jesus literally and to apply them in our daily lives. It is the only way to grow in Christ. Jesus said himself, "Man does not live by bread alone but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4 His words are life to our souls.

We should heed the teaching of Jesus, even though they were uttered over 2,000 years ago. I say this because they are just as alive now as when He spoke them. There is another reason why we should heed the teaching of Jesus. He was not just an ordinary man. He was and is God in the flesh.

The 1st chapter of John tells us that Jesus was God before the foundation of the world and that He came down from heaven to become a man and as man He live the life we could not live and died the death we should have died.

It's time to listen for the voice of our shepherd and follow Him. Don't be afraid. Why? Because... (Claim this as yours)

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: You anoint my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Psalm 23

May the Lord bless you as you continue to seek His will and discover the richness of His love.