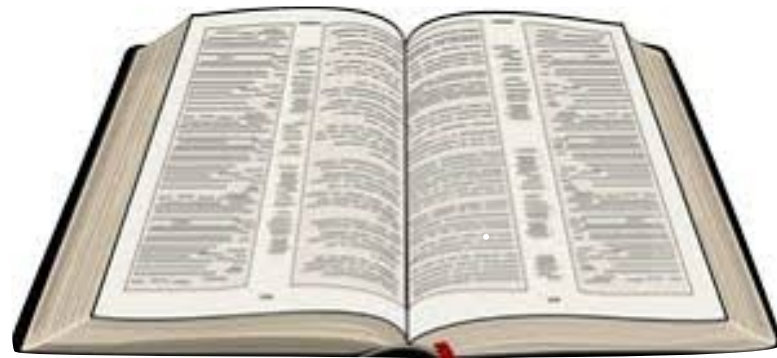


The Gospels

THE MOST
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE
IN
THE WORLD



A Study of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John



Matthew

Imagine, a tax collector writing a best seller!

Chapter 1 Genealogy of Jesus. An angel appears to Mary & Joseph.
Angel tells Joseph to take family to Egypt.

Chapter 3 John the Baptist. Jesus' baptism.

Chapter 4 Jesus tempted. Chooses His apostles.

Chapter 5 - 7 Sermon on the Mount

Chapter 8 He heals all manner of sickness. Calms the Storm.

Chapter 9 Heals paralytic & chooses Matthew.

Chapter 10 Commissions 12 apostles.

Chapter 11 John the Baptist sends word from prison.

Chapter 12 Questions on breaking the Sabbath sin.
Sin against the Holy Spirit, sign of Jonah.

Chapter 13 Taught in parables, His family comes.

Chapter 14 Herod beheads John the Baptist. Jesus feeds a multitude.

Chapter 15 Jesus rebukes hypocrites. /continued performing miracles.

Chapter 16 Beware the leaven of the Pharisees, feeds great multitude.

Chapter 17 Jesus transfigured. Tells of His death.

Chapter 18 Suffer the little children...lessons on forgiveness.

Chapter 19 Questions on divorce. The wicked servant.

Chapter 20 Children come to Him. Paying the laborers.

Chapter 21 Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey. Runs money changers out of the temple

Chapter 22 Big feast but many refuse the invitation.

Chapter 23 Woe to the Pharisees & scribes!

Chapter 24 End of time explained. No one knows the time except the FATHER.

Chapter 25 Five foolish and five wise virgins at the wedding.

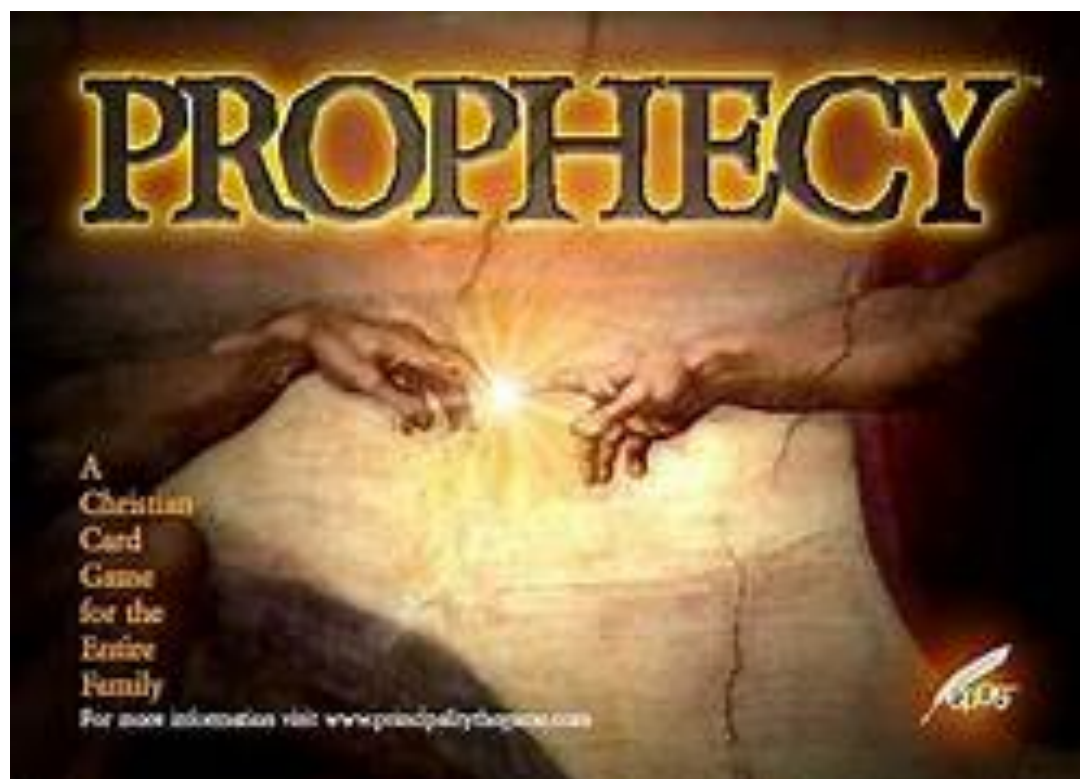
Chapter 26 What we can do to help our fellow man. Do for them like doing it for God. Lord's Supper.

Chapter 27 Pharisee accuse Jesus of blasphemy. Judas hangs himself. After tauntings and beatings, Jesus is crucified.

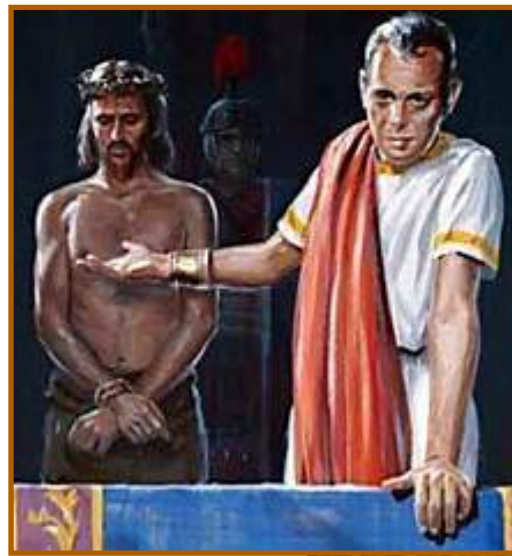
Chapter 28 The risen Jesus is seen by hundreds of people. He gives disciples the "Great Commission."



And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)		Hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16)
Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)		Bore our sins (Isaiah 53:6)
Rejected by the Jews (Isaiah 53:3)		Forsaken of God (Psalm 22:1)
Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)		Soldiers cast lots for His garments (Psalm 22:18)
Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12)		Not a bone broken (Psalm 34:20)
Crucified with sinners (Isaiah 53:12)		Rose from the grave (Psalm 16:10)



THE PILATE STONE



Bible critics claimed that Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, did not live during Roman Emperor Tiberius' reign. One archaeology find dispels that claim.

While workmen were making repairs at the theatre in Caesarea they discovered this loosened stone, being used as a step. Upon turning it over they discovered this inscription! The stone had been used at another structure dedicated to the emperor at that time, Tiberius.

The top line shows much of Tiberius' name. While part of the first few letters are chipped off of Pontius Pilatus, the latin name is recognizable.

1ST CENTURY ROMANS WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED THIS THE "SCENIC ROUTE."



Pilatus

Many used to say I didn't exist. Then critics said I didn't live during the reign of the Roman Emperor Tiberius, but I built and dedicated a temple to Tiberius. This is the first evidence found (outside of the Bible) proving I did exist.

Who am I? _____

What did I do that is so well known? _____

_____ Where was this stone found?

_____ Locate & circle it on the map.

The real stone is now in the Jerusalem Museum in Israel.



Bible references: Mt. 27:11-26, 58, 65; Mk. 15:1-15, 45;
Lk. 23:1-25, 52; Jn 18:28-19:19, 38



Temptation of Jesus

Fasted
40 Days & 40 Nights

For we do not have a High Priest
who cannot sympathize
with our weaknesses,
but was in all points
tempted as we are,
yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15



“If you are the Son of God, command
that these stones become bread.”

“If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself
down. For it is written ‘*He shall give his
angels charge over you. and In their hands
they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your
foot against a stone.*’”

The devil then took Jesus up on a very high
mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms
of the world and their glory. “All these things
I will give You if You fall down and worship me.”



“It is written, ‘
*Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from
the mouth of God.*’” Matt. 4:1-11

“It is written again.
‘*You shall not tempt the Lord your God.*’”

“Away with you, Satan! It is written,
‘*You shall worship the Lord your God,
and Him only you shall serve.*’”

	Eve	Jesus	Us
The Avenues of Sin:			
“the lust of the flesh”	_____	_____	_____
“the lust of the eyes”	_____	_____	_____
“pride of life”	_____	_____	_____
I John 2:15-17			James 1:13-15



Zealots

The **Zealots** were a political movement in 1st-century which sought to incite the people of Judea Province to rebel against the Roman Empire and expel it from the Holy Land by force of arms.

Disciples

A learner or a follower of a public teacher or instructor such as John the Baptist or Jesus.

Apostles

A messenger or ambassador. In the truest sense it is one chosen by Jesus to be an eye witness to the events of His life and to see Him after His resurrection. Then they were able to testify to all mankind concerning Him.



The disciples had very different personalities. Simon Peter (also called Cephas) was very impetuous. Who else would have gotten up before millions of people on the Day of Pentecost and delivered the first gospel sermons? The sons of Zebedee were called “the sons of thunder” (Boanerges). When they went to a place that didn’t welcome them John wanted Jesus to bring down fire and devour them! However, Peter, James and John were Jesus’ inner circle. James became the first apostle to be martyred. John was charged with caring for Mary and he was the only one to live to an old age.

Then you had someone like Andrew who quietly worked in the background. He was the one who brought up the young lad with bread and fish to Jesus. From this small gesture, Jesus fed the 5,000! Matthew wrote one book and John wrote five and Peter wrote two letters.

To get the most important message out to the whole world would you choose a bunch of fishermen, a tax collector and a political zealot and all from Galilee, of all places, (except one)? And after awhile a scholar, who persecuted the fledgling church, is added to the group.

Without hesitation, these people Jesus called, dropped everything and followed His directive to “Follow Me.” No questions asked, no excuses to wait until they could finish up some other business they needed to do.

There were two sets of brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, and John and James, the sons of Zebedee. All of the original twelve came from Galilee. Only Judas Iscariot came from Judea. It wasn’t until after the disciples were sent forth that they became apostles.



The 12, then the 11, then the 12, and then the 13? Have we got that right?

Matthew 27:5; Acts 1:26; Acts 9

Birth of the Church



Matthew 10:2-4

Mark 3:14-19

Luke 6:13-16

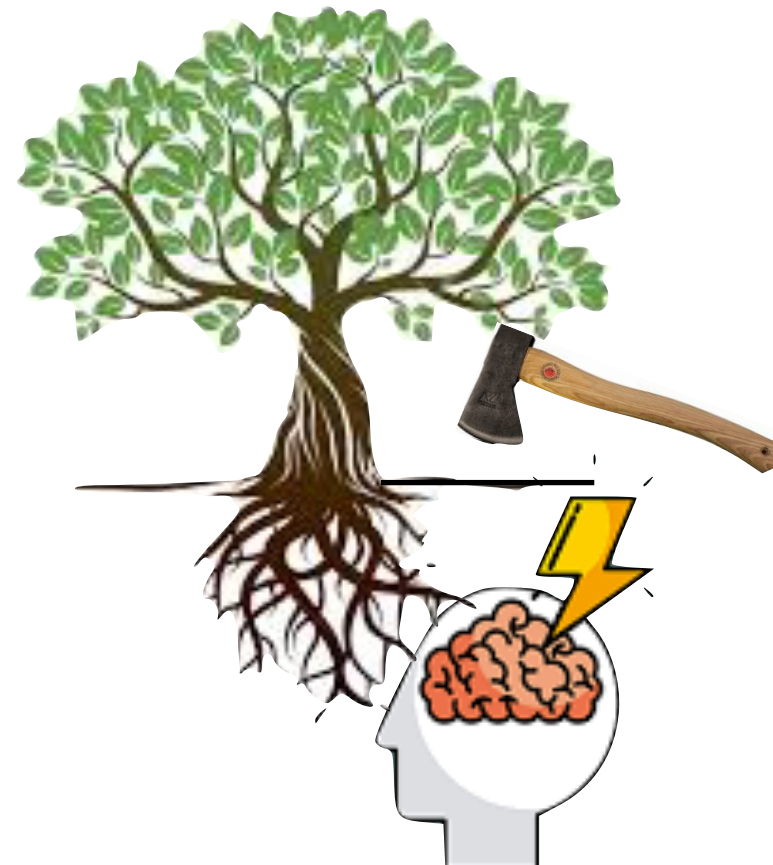
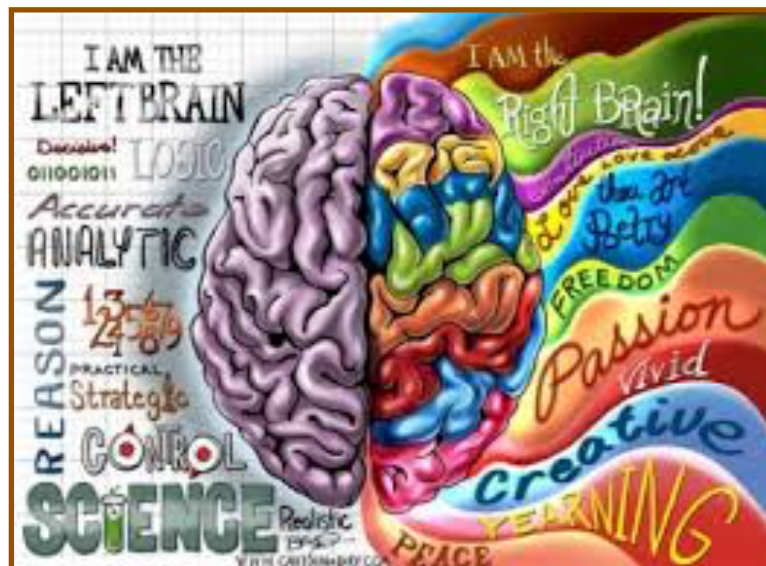
Just a thought—isn't it strange we say the Apostle Peter, the Apostle John, but we never say the Apostle Judas?

Gospel of Matthew ^[17]	Gospel of Mark ^[18]	Gospel of Luke ^[19]	Gospel of John	Acts of the Apostles ^[20]
Simon ("who is called Peter")	Simon	Simon	Simon Peter ^[21]	Peter
Andrew ("his [Peter's] brother")	Andrew	Andrew	Andrew	Andrew
James ("son of Zebedee")	James	James	one of the "sons of Zebedee"	James
John ("his [James's] brother")	John / one of the " Boanerges "	John	one of the "sons of Zebedee"	John
Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Nathanael	Bartholomew
Thomas	Thomas	Thomas	Thomas ("also called Didymus") ^[22]	Thomas
Matthew ("the publican") (Levi)	Matthew	Matthew	not mentioned	Matthew
James ("son of Alphaeus")	James	James	not mentioned	James
Thaddaeus (or "Lebbaeus")	Thaddaeus	Judas ("son of James")	Jude ("not Iscariot") ^[23]	Judas son of James
Simon ("the Canaanite")	Simon ("the Cananaean")	Simon ("who was called the Zealot ")	not mentioned	Simon the Zealot
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas ("son of Simon Iscariot") ^[24]	(Judas replaced by Matthias)

The Focus of Jesus' Teaching

Jesus oriented His teaching to actively engage His students in the learning experience. To do this, He focused on:

- Thinking
- Knowing
- Understanding
- Being, and
- Doing



Watch!

watch your
thoughts
they become
words

watch your
words
they become
actions

watch your
actions
they become
habits

watch your
habits
they become
character

watch your
character
it becomes
your destiny

The blind see.

The lame walk.

Those who have leprosy are cured.

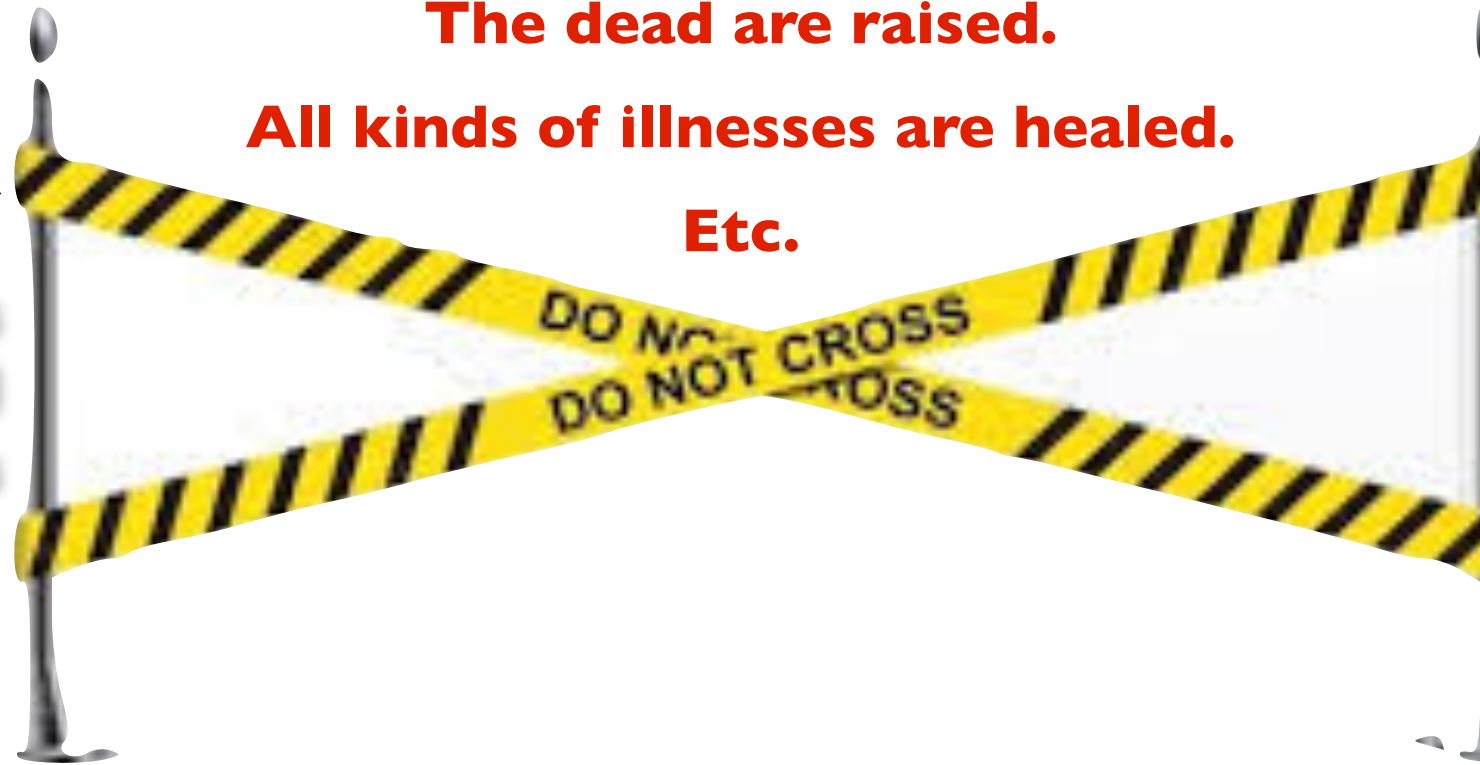
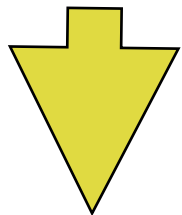
The deaf hear.

The dead are raised.

All kinds of illnesses are healed.

Etc.

**Jesus
crosses all
boundaries**



Don't call your brother a fool.

Don't Lust.

Don't get divorced.

Don't swear.

Don't return evil for evil.

Love your enemies.

Etc.

I'm all for this up here!
But I don't go along with
this down here, that's just
getting a little too
personal!



The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5,6,7

In the Sermon on the Mount people often think Jesus is replacing the Old Law (Torah). However, He came to fulfill that law, keeping it perfectly which no one else could ever do. The Jews held the Torah (containing, according to the rabbis 613 laws) so sacred, they surrounded it with a “hedge” where they embellished the Law with their own rules and regulations. When Jesus was dealing with Satan during the Temptation, He always answered with “It is written.” Yet during this Sermon on the Mount Jesus often says “it has been said, etc.”

Nonetheless, God expects us to obey Him from the heart. He expected this even in the Jewish Bible (Old Testament). Look up Deut. 6:4 (Shema), 10:12,15.



The Poor in Spirit, Embracing our need for God.

The Mourners, Experiencing God’s comfort in our pain.

The Meek, Choosing humble submissiveness over ambition and authority.

The Hungry for Righteousness, Longing for God to make all things new.

The Merciful, Extending God’s incredible compassion and mercy.

The Pure in Heart, Making our hearts fully God’s, in all we think, say and do.

The Peacemakers, Bringing healing, togetherness, and fullness to our world.

The Persecuted, Following Jesus no matter what the cost.



Remember studying about the Magna Carta?

King John in England was forced by the barons to grant fundamental of rights and privileges. All, including the king, were subject to the law and ‘free men’ had the right to justice and a fair trial.

The king signed the Magna Carta (“The Great Charter”) in 1215 and there are only four existing copies today. Yet some of these fundamentals have influenced constitutions in other countries. Similar things are found in our own Bill of Rights.

We are studying about a spiritual kingdom, one that can never be destroyed. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus explains what its citizens should strive to be and to know what to expect. While John the Immerser prepared the people for Jesus, Jesus is preparing the people for His Kingdom, His church. In essence this is the Christian’s Magna Carta or Constitution.

The Sermon on the Mount



In most of these situations the people took personal vengeance instead of handling it through the courts.

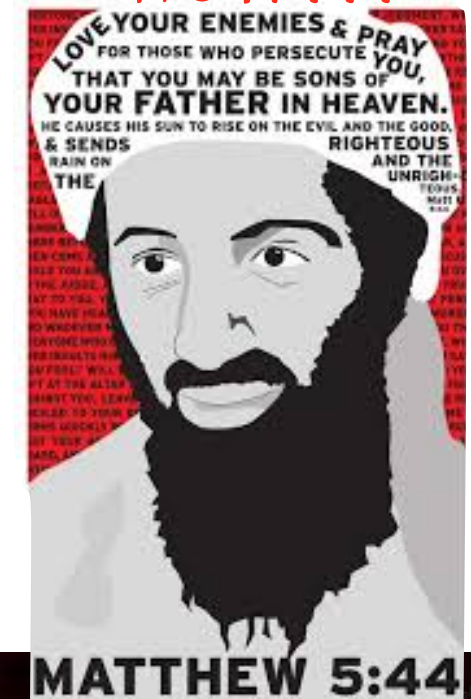
If you have an adversary who is taking you to court what does Jesus say to do? Why?

What about an “eye for an eye?” People were turning in to personal vengeance, rather than the courts of the land to handle it. Deuteronomy 19: 15-21

What about turning the other cheek? Matthew 5:39

The extra mile? Matthew 5:41

HOW???



You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life.

— Winston Churchill

Love vs Lust

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a DECISION. “Making Love” doesn’t make it LOVE. • Wants what’s best for the other person. • Protects others from harm, danger, or risk of harm. • Is unconditional. • Shows “I will never do anything to hurt you, and you will be a better person because I loved you.” | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a FEELING, like infatuation. • Tends to be more about “me.” • Looks for what it can get, not what it can give. • What we call “conditional love”... I love you <i>IF</i>... • Says “Come on baby, isn’t it time we showed each other how much we really care?” |
|---|--|--|

How can we even associate the word “love” with a Hitler or a Ben Laden?? Or for someone who has spread ugly rumors about us that were not true and cost you your job? family? Or for someone who has done harm to one of your children?

Jesus gets to the heart of our actions in the Sermon on the Mount, by starting with our minds. First, let's get down to what the word “love” means. There are four types of love, as follows:
agape- total self-giving, always associated with God and the giving of his Son. Attitude of mind to act in the best interest of another.
phileo-tender affection, brotherly love.
eros- physical love
storge-family type love.

What is the difference between LOVE and LIKE? How do you work on your mind? Can you transfer emotions like hate to feelings of pity or sadness? All are created in the image of God. PRAY!!

The sermon on the mount begins with Beatitudes that deal with our character and extra ones that are concerned with how to handle unpleasant situations we might be in. Why should we be glad when we are persecuted and lied about because of Jesus?

Sermon on the Mount

What's the difference? Authority or Authorization

One who has the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.

One who is given permission to exert limited power.

What properties do **light** and **salt** have that we should emulate?



Jot is related to our modern English word *iota*, meaning “a very small amount.” The Hebrew spelling is *yod* or *yodh*. Many Bibles have a picture of a yod in [Psalm 119](#). Check out the section title coming just before verse 73.

A tittle is even smaller than a jot. A tittle is a letter extension, a pen stroke that can differentiate one Hebrew letter from another. An example can be seen in the comparison between the Hebrew letters *resh* and *daleth* (or *dalet*): That extension is a tittle. See [Psalm 119:25](#) and [153](#) for pictures of the *daleth* and *resh*, respectively.

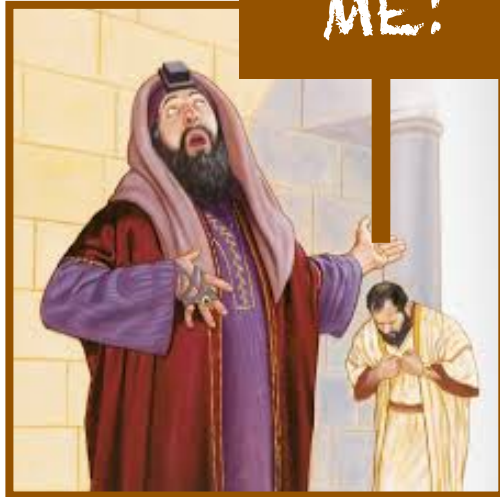
Till Heaven and earth pass, or one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. [Matthew 5:18](#)



At first the command under the old law was “Thou shalt not kill.” The intent was to not “murder,” which carries a truer application. Personal vengeance is not condoned. God has instituted government to carry out proper sentences. The figurative use of body parts (eye for an eye, etc.) serve to show that the punishment should fit the crime and it is better to do without part of your body than all of you be doomed to everlasting punishment.

Romans 13

LOOK
AT
ME!



Who say, :
"Keep to yourself,
Do not come
near me, For I am
holier than you!"
These are smoke
in My nostrils,
A fire that burns
all the day.
Isaiah 65:5

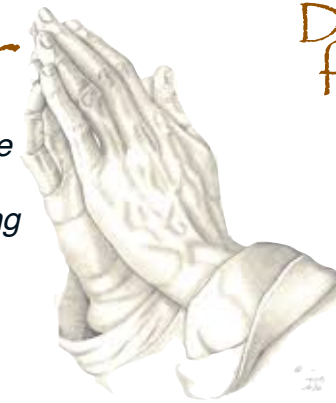


**People Today: 14% Christ like values
51% attitudes and actions of Pharisees**



Prayer

*I desire therefore
that men pray
everywhere, lifting
up holy hands,
without wrath
and doubting.*
1 Timothy 2:8



Do the right thing
for right reason

Prayer is:
The soul's desire for God
Communion with God
The offering to Him of petitions
for mercies or blessings desired,
and thanksgiving and praise for
those received.
1 Timothy 2:1-3; Philippians 4:6

**Do we pray to tell God
what He doesn't know?**

**Give an example
of vain babbling
in prayers.**
1 Kings 18:16-45

1 Thessalonians 5:17 w/o ceasing

The Model Prayer

*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 forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us not into
temptation.
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and
the power and the glory
forever. Amen.*

Matthew 6:9-13



Mark 12:41-44
Luke 21:1-4

phy·lac·ter·y
fə'laktərē/.

Matthew 23:5; Exodus 13:9
noun

plural noun: **phylacteries**

1. a small leather box containing Hebrew texts on vellum, worn by Jewish men at morning prayer as a reminder to keep the law.



Always address God, recognizing His greatness.
"Hallowed"- honored as being holy.

Since the kingdom is here, we can pray FOR it.

Daily bread, ask for needs, not for extravagances.
Hearkens back to when God provided manna to the Israelites six days a week.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive others their debts.

James 1:13 God doesn't tempt man. May be in a situation where we may be tempted. **1 Cor. 10:13** God always provides a way of escape.





Something We Will Never See



What is at the root of all evil?

1 Timothy 6:10



Are Christians commanded to fast?

God commanded fasting on one day in the Old Testament and that was the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the most holy day to Jews, until this day. Exodus 29 & 30; Leviticus 1 - 19; 5-31; Numbers 5-31

Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6

It is helpful in this study that money and worrying are placed side by side in the text, since one of the main worries today is money. The Bible addresses this subject many times over throughout the Bible.

Lets face it, the Christian has so many decisions to make! We must go beneath the surface and consider how our actions may cause another Christian to stumble and how it is perceived by non-Christians. We must always consider the fact that we represent God on this earth.

Upon reading some passages it says that the rich will have a difficult times getting to Heaven. (Mt 19:23-24) Therefore, is the Bible against being rich? The book of James emphasizes that Christians should not draw distinctions between the classes of people. Remember Abraham was very wealthy. So much so he could put together an army to go rescue Lot. (Gen. 14) So it is not how much money a person has, but how it affects them and how it affects those around that person.

*Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty or riches,
but give me only my daily bread.*

*Otherwise, I may have
too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the Lord?'
Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of
my God.*

Proverbs 30:8-9

*I have been young,
and now am old;
Yet I have not seen
the righteous forsaken,
Nor his descendants
begging bread.
They are always
generous and lend freely;
their children will be blessed.*

Psalms 37:25-26

What does parable of the sower teach about what happens to those who get in the thorny ground?

Luke 8:14-15

What happened to Demas, a helper of Paul?

Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24, 2 Timothy 4:10



Consider the Lilies



Things You Can't Buy in a Store



pri·or·i·ty

prī'ôradē/

noun

noun: **priority**

- the fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important. "the safety of the country **takes priority over** any other matter"
 - a thing that is regarded as more important than another. plural noun: **priorities** "housework didn't figure high on her list of priorities"
 - the right to take precedence or to proceed before others. "priority is given to those with press passes"

The Sermon on the Mount Chapter 7



In judging others, folks will
work overtime for no pay.

-Charles E. Carruthers

John 7:23-27

Romans 2:1-3*

14:1-23

1 Cor. 5:11-13

1 Cor. 6:1-6

1 Thess. 5:21-22

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Heb.4:12

James 4:17

James 5:19-20

1 John 4:1-6

Lev. 19:15

Prov.31:9

When Christians are told to “judge not,” it is confusing. In this discussion in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasizes that to judge another for what you are guilty doing yourself is wrong. Taking the figurative way He explains that if you have this huge plank in your eye you are not able to get some little speck out of your brother’s eye. The plank and speck represent the degree sin in your lives. You would probably ruin the brother’s eyes while you recklessly flounder about trying to get the little bit of sawdust out of your brother’s eyes.

In fact, if more people diligently worked on improving their own lives they wouldn’t have much time to see what’s in the brethren’s eyes.

Does all of this mean we are to never judge?

Read the list of scriptures on the left and list situations that call for a Christian’s judgement and how is it to be handled. Use the space below for your notes.



Matthew 7:1 is probably one of the most often misapplied scriptures.

Now, let me get
this straight.
If we read
what God says
in the Bible—
I’m judging you?



Sermon on the Mount, Chapter 7 (cont)

Does God always answer our prayers? If the answer isn't forthcoming we think God has forgotten our requests. His answers can be "Yes," "No" and "Not right now." In thinking of prayers I've made in the past I am so relieved God didn't grant my requests.

James (4:1-3) tells us we don't receive requests when we ask amiss. We must not use our prayers for selfish reasons. Rather we must actively search for God's will in our lives.

How is an earthly father's handling of requests made by his children compared to God?

Note. Their bread was flat like a pancake. In looking through their many stones over there you could find a stone that looks like bread.

We are traveling on either the broad way or the strait and narrow way in this life. There aren't signs telling everyone which road we're traveling.

How do you know which road you're on and how can others tell??



Don't follow the crowd!



The narrow way is called "strait." What does it mean?

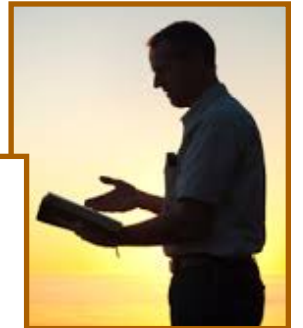
Casting your pearls before the swine!



BEWARE



?



?



2 Corinthians 11:14-15

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.



?



A commandment to Judge—
Righteous Judgement!

Matthew 8



The lepers are
cleansed.



Jesus's miracles
essentially demonstrated
He was the Son of God
and His teachings were true.
He also showed compassion
on these victims.

In performing these miracles
Jesus showed He had
power over the following:

Supply

Healing Any Sickness

Casting out Devils

Raising the Dead

Judgement

Over Time

Over Distance

Quality

Quantity

The faith of the
Roman Centurion, a gentile.

Why was Jesus amazed at the Centurion?

How do you know the Apostle Peter was married?

Matt. 8:14; 1 Corinthians 9:5,6



“What kind of man is this?
even the winds and the
waves obey Him?”



“Ye of little
faith!”



Demons were casts
out of the men who
came out of the tombs.
The men frightened
anyone who came by
the tomb they lived in.
They asked that the
demons be transferred
to some nearby swine.



Sea of Galilee

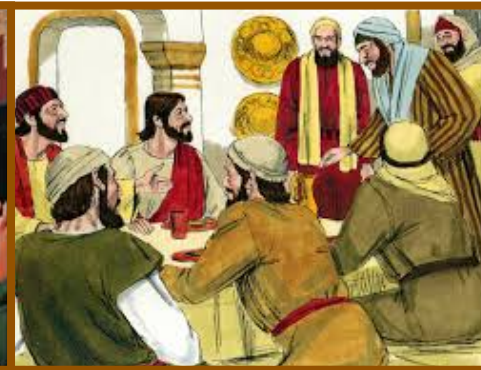
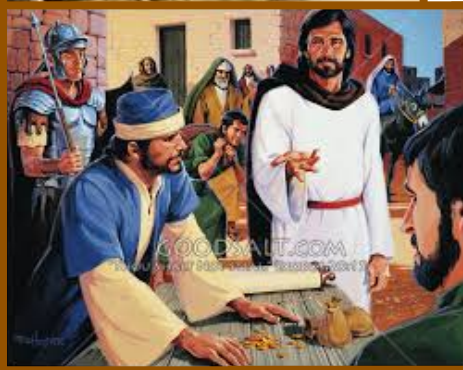
13.05 miles
Freshwater Lake in Israel
Also known as:
Kinneret or Kinnereth
Lake of Gennesaret
Lake Tiberias

Set in the hills of northern Israel, the **Sea of Galilee** is nearly 700 feet below sea level. ... The **sea's** location makes it subject to sudden and violent **storms** as the wind comes over the eastern mountains and drops suddenly onto the **sea**.



Forgive sins?
That's blasphemy!

What? Eating with
tax collectors &
sinners!! And why
don't your disciples
fast??



Matthew 9

"Nothing like this has ever
been seen in Israel."

Jesus has been called "Son of David." What
does that mean and why is it important?

What did the devils cry out that shows they
knew who He was? _____

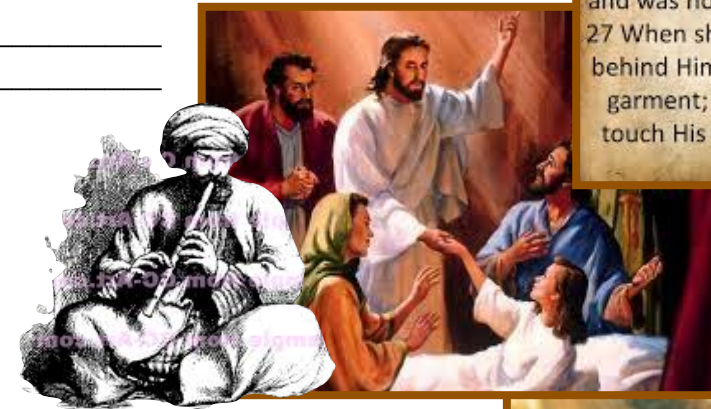
What does James 2:19 say about this?



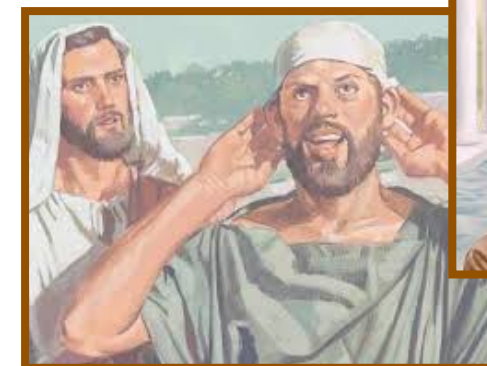
Just let
me touch
the hem
of His
garment.

Mark 5:25-28

25 Now a certain woman had a flow of
blood for twelve years, 26 and had
suffered many things from many
physicians. She had spent all that she had
and was no better, but rather grew worse.
27 When she heard about Jesus, she came
behind Him in the crowd and touched His
garment; 28 for she said, "If only I may
touch His clothes, I shall be made well."



Peter's
Mother-in-law
made well.



The deaf hear & the blind see because of Jesus!

The
harvest
is
plentiful
but
the
workers
are few.

Matthew 10

Disciple or Apostle?

An **apostle** is sent to deliver or spread those teachings to others. The word "**apostle**" has two meanings, the larger meaning of a messenger and the narrow meaning to denote the twelve people directly linked to Jesus Christ. We can say that all **apostles** were **disciples** but all **disciples** are not **apostles**.



The Apostles

Matthew 10:2 - 4; Acts 1:13-14,26; Acts 9

How did they die?

Tradition holds that 11 of the Twelve Apostles were martyred. **Peter, Andrew, and Philip** were crucified (Peter requested to be crucified upsidedown); **James the Greater** and **Thaddaeus** fell to the sword; **James the Lesser** was beaten to death while praying for his attackers; **Bartholomew** was flayed alive and then crucified; **Thomas and Matthew** were speared; **Matthias** was stoned to death; and **Simon** was either crucified or sawed in half. **John**—the last survivor of the Twelve—likely died peaceably, possibly in Ephesus, around the year 100.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____
- 12 _____
- 13 _____
- 14 _____

The Limited Commission

Jesus prepares His disciples to go on a special mission.

1. What was their mission? _____

2. Jesus gave them power to do what?

3. What places were they forbidden to go?

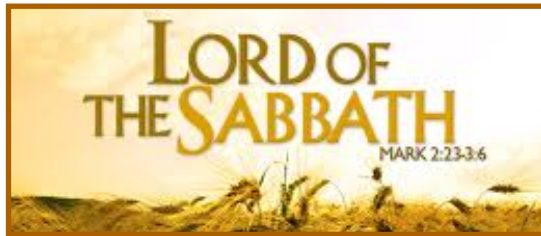
4. What were they instructed to NOT take ?

5. What were they to do if a town or a home was not hospitable to them or would not listen to their message?

6. What would be their ultimate fate?

7. How were they to treat people who wanted to hear their message?

8. What are some of the costs of discipleship? _____



The Pharisees seeing Jesus' disciples eating grain in the fields accused them of breaking the Sabbath. Well, what about the Sabbath, did they abuse the Sabbath commands? Let's get some background here.

By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing, so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done. Genesis 2: 2-3

Was it because God was tired? Hardly. But perhaps He was giving mankind an example rest needs to fit into our schedules in this world. God blessed it made it holy. Holy is something, a time, place, or things that are dedicated to God and are not to be profaned or treated as something common. Like the Lord's name when it is used in a loose manner, His name is being treated as something common.

Next, the Sabbath is addressed in the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:8-11 & 16:27-30. This is a lengthy reading, so look it up and consider what it says. As a result of these commandments, the Jewish rabbis wrote supplements to classify their interpretations of God's law. Many had become so exacting God's laws seemed more understandable. These interpretations became the "traditions of the fathers," as found in a weighty tome like the Mishna and the Talmud instructing the people on how to apply God's law. Jesus addressed the difference between God's law and their oral or traditional laws throughout the Sermon on the Mount. There will be many other situations throughout the gospel accounts that deal with this problem.

In these passages we find that you can do some good on the Sabbath like healing someone and helping a distressed animal.

*Is the First Day of the Week
the Christians's Sabbath?*

1. John had been in prison a year.
Why was he put in prison? Luke 3:3-20

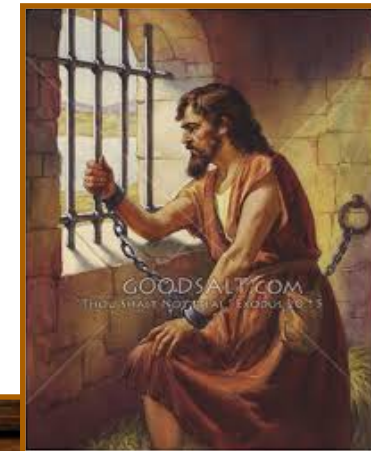
2. John is referred to as Elijah the prophet.
Why would he be called this? Malachi 4:5-6;

Why would they expect Elijah to come back?
2 Kings 2:1-12

3. John baptized Jesus and witnessed the Holy Spirit descending as a dove and lighting on Jesus and heard God's voice from Heaven, why would John's faith waver now?

4. What message did Jesus send back to John?

Matthew 11 & 12



**Do
we look
for
Another?**

Matthew 11:11–14 Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**5. How can we Christians even remotely be considered greater than John the Baptist?
Acts 19:1-7**

6. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?



In writing, Jews, showing reverence, spelled God as G—D. In reading an instrument called the "yad" was used so they wouldn't physically touch the name of G—D in the script.





par·a·ble

/ˈperəb(ə)l/
noun

noun: **parable**; plural noun:
parables a simple story used to
illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson,
as told by Jesus in the Gospels.

Seven Kingdom Parables

The most prominent of these parables is the Parable of the Sower. DeHoff says that this parable must be understood because it teaches “fundamental principles which one must understand in order to interpret any part of the Bible.” Being able to interpret other parables hinges upon our ability to understand the kingdom that Jesus came to establish. Jesus even gives the interpretation of this parable.

Too often students of the Bible tend to over-work a parable. Zero in on the main points and glean the important lesson from them. Other things are put in to add “color” as we say today.

The seed is the Word of God. As Jesus and John the Baptist demonstrated someone must sow the seed. The seed must be pure, nothing else mixed in it. When someone buys seed today they want “Certified Seed.” This certification means it is pure seed and not mixed with anything else.

“I will open my mouth in
parables,
I will utter things hidden
since the
creation of the world.”
Psalms 78:2

The Parable of the Sower

The Seed is the Word of God



The Path



The Rocky Soil



The Weedy Soil



The Good Soil

What type of Soil are You?
Is God Growing in Your Heart?

Parable	Ground Description	Heart Response	Enemy Action
The Wayside	Hardened, trampled	No understanding	BLIND Steal the seed
Stony Places	Rocky, shallow soil, Burnt, little moisture	Immediate growth, No fruit	HARASS Scorch the earth
Among Thorns	Crowded field Depleted nutrients	Secondary growth, Becomes unfruitful	DECEIVE Choke the plant
Good Soil	Fertile	Bears fruit, Produces a crop	CONTAIN Limit the crop

1. What is meant by letting the wheat and the tares growing together? v.30
2. When will be the separation time?
3. How is the value of the Kingdom compared?
4. Where did Jesus say that a prophet is without honor?
5. What was His experience?
6. Name the members of Jesus’ physical family.



Jesus often taught from a boat because so often the crowds became so pressing He just simply needed some space. Other times He would go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.



“The Jesus Boat” brought up from the Sea of Gallilee a few years ago.

God’s Word
Can Grow in
Our Hearts
and Change
Us!

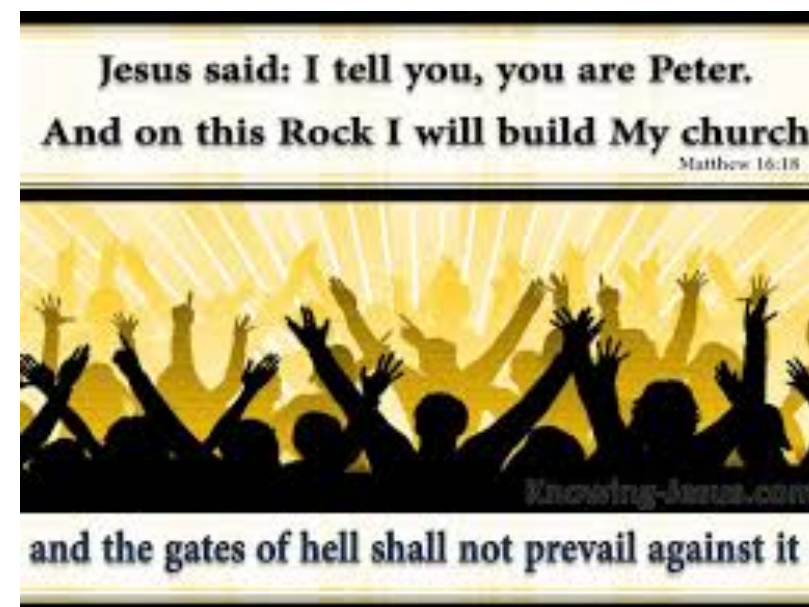
The Sea of Galilee is
pear shaped, 16 miles long
and eight to ten miles wide.
It is 692 feet below sea level.

Reconstructed Boat



(1.) Christ and not Peter is the Rock in [1Corinthians 10:4](#), the Foundation in [1Corinthians 3:11](#). (2.) The poetry of the Old Testament associated the idea of the Rock with the greatness and steadfastness of God, not with that of a man [[Deuteronomy 32:4](#); [Deuteronomy 32:18](#); [Psalm 18:2](#); [Psalm 18:31](#); [Psalm 18:46](#); [Isaiah 17:10](#); [Habakkuk 1:12](#)]

I will build my church.--It is significant that this is the first occurrence of the word Church (**Ecclesia**) in the New Testament, the only passage but one ([Matthew 18:17](#)) in which it is found in the whole cycle of our Lord's recorded teaching. Its use was every way significant. Partly, doubtless, it came with the associations which it had in the Greek of the Old Testament, as used for the "assembly" or "congregation" of the Lord ([Deuteronomy 18:16](#); [Deuteronomy 23:1](#); [Psalm 26:12](#)).



HOW THE APOSTLES & Early Disciples DIED

1. Matthew

Suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, Killed by a sword wound.

2. Mark

Died in Alexandria, Egypt , after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.

3. Luke

Was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.

4. John

Faced martyrdom when he was boiled in huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution In Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death.

John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison Island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on Patmos . The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey . He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully

5. Peter

He was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die In the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

6. James

The leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club.

* This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.

7. James the Son of Zebedee,

Was a fisherman by trade when Jesus Called him to a lifetime of ministry. Brother of John. As a strong leader of the church, James was beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

8. Bartholomew

Also known as Nathaniel was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.

9. Andrew

Was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: 'I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it. He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired.

10. Thomas

Was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the sub-continent.

11. Jude

Was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

12. Matthias

The apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded.

13. Paul

Was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational Doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament.

Perhaps this is a reminder to us that our sufferings here are indeed minor compared to the intense persecution and cold cruelty faced by the apostles and disciples during their times for the sake of the Faith. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: But he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Why do we feel sleepy in Prayer,
But stay awake through a 3 hour movie?
Why are we so bored when we look at the HOLY BOOK,
But find it easy to read other books?
Why is it so easy to ignore a msg about God,
Yet we forward the nasty ones?
Why are prayers getting smaller,
But bars and clubs are expanding
Why is it so easy to worship a celebrity,
But very difficult to engage with God?
Think about it, are you going to forward this?
Are you going to ignore it, cause you think you will get laughed at?
When one door closes, God opens two: If God has opened doors for you, send this message to everyone on your contact list.

SOME OF The Roman Ways of Torture

Sewn into a Donkey. If you're looking for cruel and unusual forms of torture, you don't have to look any further than ancient Rome. Take, for instance, a torture that was described by both Apuleius (The Golden Ass) and Lucian (Lucius, or the Ass):

A donkey would be killed, its belly sliced open, and the entrails removed. The accused was then stripped of clothing and stuffed into the animal's belly. The belly was stitched closed, leaving only the accused's head outside, preventing suffocation but prolonging suffering.

The donkey's body was kept in the sun. It would begin to decompose—with the living victim inside being **cooked by the heat**. Maggots would crawl all over the accused, and vultures would peck at the animal's decaying flesh. Death, while welcomed, came slow for the victim of this torture

Fed to Wild Hogs. Saint Gregory described a heinous torture that was performed on young women by the people of Heliopolis while under Roman rule:

Any virgin who was to undergo this torture was first given to the gladiators. After the young woman was no longer a virgin, she was publicly stripped, and her belly was sliced open, spilling her innards out. Handfuls of barley were stuffed into her, and she was sewn back up—only to be given to wild hogs. She would then be **torn apart**.

Cut Off. In ancient Rome, the higher your status, the more people you were allowed to bone without consequence. For example, the emperor would get it on with anyone he wanted. A general could make a move on a lieutenant or a common citizen, and soldiers could go after common citizens. Climbing up the social ladder was forbidden. If a common citizen decided to penetrate an unwilling soldier, the punishment was **public castration**. If the soldier willingly allowed the common citizen to penetrate him, he would be publicly disemboweled.

These rules, coupled with true love between men, really muddled up the waters. It was easy for anyone to accuse a man of breaking rank or willingly giving in to penetration by a man of lesser status.

Or Tied off. Tiberius was one of the most feared and hated emperors in Roman history and for good reason. He was almost always in a foul mood and enjoyed devising excruciating tortures.

The victim's penis was often the target of his cruelty, and he was known to invite his enemies to drink wine with him. As his victims got their fill of drink, he would have the tops of their members tied shut, so they couldn't urinate. From there, the real tortures began—and the victims were **unable to empty their bladders**. Emperor Caligula was just as cruel as old Tiberius. At one point, he had a senator slit open. The senator survived, and Caligula ordered that his eyes be removed. After that, hot pincers were used to take out his internal organs. To add to the degradation, the senator was **cut in half and torn to pieces**.

According to Roman belief, death was not a punishment, but a release. The torture was punishment, and death was only allowed after a certain amount of pain and terror had been felt.



Nailed Into Barrels

Some people were meant to suffer longer than others before the sweet release of death. Under Emperor Domitian, Christians were tortured in the most horrific ways.

One of the most disgusting tortures performed involved smearing a Christian in honey and milk. The victim was then nailed into a barrel and force-fed parasite-ridden food. The parasites **feasted on the insides** the of victim, whose body began to rot inside the barrel. After about two weeks of this torture, the victim would finally die and become a martyr for the Christian religion.

Buried Alive

Emperor Nero took delight in having people **buried alive**. He almost exclusively saved this punishment for vestal virgins who broke their vows of chastity. In one account, Nero forced himself on the priestess Rubria. For her punishment, she was entombed inside a small cave and left to starve to death.

Another torture supported by Nero involved the accused digging his own grave. After it was dug, a stake was set inside the grave. The accused was then bound and pushed into the grave. If his crime was minor, he would be pushed so that the stake pierced through his heart. Anyone convicted of a heinous crime was pushed so that the stake mortally wounded him. He was then left to die in excruciating pain or was buried alive.

Eaten Through the Middle

Executioners often used animals to carry out their barbarity, as was the case with the cauldron torture. For this particular cruelty, a starved animal, such as a rat, a dog, or a cat, was placed inside a small cauldron. The opening of the cauldron was then fastened to the belly of the accused.

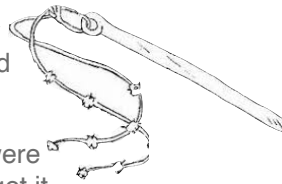
The executioner would hold a flame to the back of the cauldron, making the inside extremely hot. The animal would panic and try to escape. The only soft "ground" for it to dig its way out was **through the belly** of the accused.

BEE BASKET One bizarre form of torture involved stripping a person down and stuffing him into a large, loosely woven basket. The basket was then hoisted up into a tree containing a large, active beehive. The bees were quickly angered, and the person inside the basket was then **stung to death**.

The accused was meant to suffer in agony for as long as possible. However, there were cases where the victim of this torture died relatively quickly due to being allergic to bee stings.

Crucifixion Ancient Romans loved a good crucifixion. It was at one time the primary method used to tortured and kill countless numbers of slaves. Crucifixion didn't always involve nailing the accused to a cross. Sometimes, the accused was stripped, his head was covered, and he was tied down onto a cross or fork. He was then flogged, sometimes until he died. If the accused was not supposed to die by continuous flogging, the next course of action involved nailing his hands to the cross beam. He was then hoisted onto a planted post, and his feet were nailed to the post. He might be left there to die a slow death, or his thighs might be broken to help speed his end.

In some cases, the accused might be hung upside down on the post. Other times, the executioner had the post driven through the accused's private parts. The methods used differed from executioner to executioner, with no one set **method of crucifixion** for all.



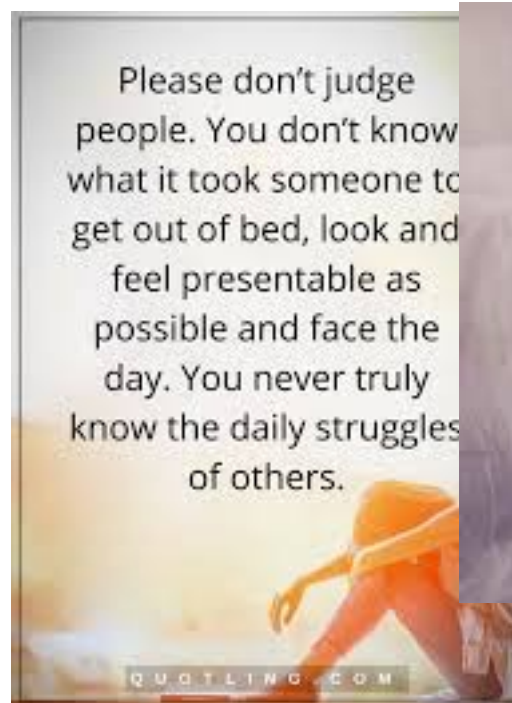


The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.



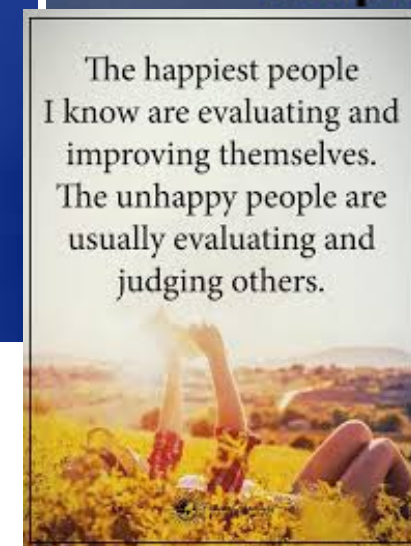


- Peter: buried in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Rome, Italy
- Andrew: buried in St Andrew's Cathedral, Patras, Greece
- James, son of Zebedee: buried in Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in Galicia (Spain)
- John: buried in the Basilica of St. John in Ephesus Turkey
- Philip: buried in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Rome or possibly Hierapolis, near Denizli, Turkey^[16]
- Bartholomew: buried in the Basilica of Benevento, Italy, or Basilica of St. Bartholomew on the Island, Rome, Italy
- Matthew: buried in the Salerno Cathedral, Salerno, Italy
- James, son of Alpheus: buried in the Cathedral of St. James in Jerusalem or the Church of the Holy Apostles in Rome
- Thomas: buried in the Basilica of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Abruzzo, Italy or in the San Thome Basilica in Madras, India
- Simon: buried in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome under the St. Joseph altar with St. Jude
- Jude Thaddeus: buried in St. Peter's Basilica under the St. Joseph altar with St. Simon; two bones (relics) located at National Shrine of St Jude in Chicago, Illinois
- Matthias: buried in the Saint Matthias Benedictine Abbey in Trier, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany.
- Paul: relics located in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome
- Judas Iscariot: remains located in Akeldama, near the Valley of Hinnom, in Jerusalem, Israel



BE SO BUSY IMPROVING YOURSELF. THAT YOU HAVE NO TIME TO CRITICIZE OTHERS.

When you judge another, you do not define them, you define yourself.



Matthew

The virgin will be
with child and will
give birth to a son,
and they will call
him 'Immanuel' —
which means,
'God with us'.

Matthew 1:23



Why did Joseph & Mary have to go to Bethlehem when they lived in Nazareth, about 80 miles away?

Why couldn't they return to Nazareth?

**Thou shall call
his name Jesus:
for he shall save
his people from
their sins.**

Matthew 1:21

What brought the shepherds to the manger and who told them to go there?

Why were the wise men (magi) not at the manger? When and where did they go? How old was Jesus then?

