

*Making **Red Letter Living** Your Mission and Model for Life* *AND JESUS SAID...*

“Jesus said it...so I believe it! So...Now what?”

Do we believe even the elementary truths of Jesus’ words while He was in this world?

Matthew 5:21-22 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

Do we pick and choose the good and safe quotes of Jesus?

Don’t feel bad. Most of us do!

For 3 of the last 4 weeks, we have centered in on the words of Jesus and their call for true and holy living, for doing the Word and not just reading or quoting it, and for completing the mission Jesus commanded us to do.

Do we turn the other cheek when we are slapped in the face for standing for Biblical truths and all that we hold dear as a Christian? Do we love the enemy and always do unto others as we would have them do to us?

Don’t lie! According to Jesus, “liars” will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Did Jesus mean everything He said and everything He commanded?

Well, how are you grading yourself on the issues?

“Oh wretched man that I am. Who can save me from myself?”

Now...let’s think of some major quotes from Jesus that we can base our faith and trust on and in.

1. “Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1

Heart = mind, will, emotions. What you know, what you agree to do or not to do, what you do when you don’t know or do know what is going on or what might be going on.

Troubled = anxious, worried, fearful of the future, looking for answers that don’t seem to be available or not immediately known...or that which is known...is not the answer that you are wanting to hear.

What makes me think that the One who is saying to not worry about the future, what is going on now, that He knows what it takes to mend, to

eliminate, to solve the troubles I've seen or expect to see today, tomorrow, or in the future?

Answer: Go back to what we said in the first statement, "God said it...so I believe it!"

"Look at the sparrow, look at the flowers in the field; look at the Word of God who promises that He will take care of those whose trust is in the Lord."

Have you ever been in a place when you did not know how you are going to make it because of the terrible situation you are in? Like, your job has been eliminated, your taxes are due and you have no funds to pay, your insurance has elapsed and you had an accident (and it was your fault), your wife/husband has said she/he doesn't love you, your doctor has told you that you have an incurable disease and it will take your life, and/or one of your loved ones has been diagnosed with cancer?

If you have Jesus in your life, you can make it! State with Job, "Though you slay me, I will still trust you."

You are here today. Somehow...you made it. Give Jesus the credit.

When Jesus left this world to go back to His Father's world, He wanted to let us know... "Don't worry about it...Life is a special occasion...Make the most of it!"

2. "Today, you will be with me in paradise."

What kind of promise is that? The best!!

The thief on the cross; he believed that Jesus was who He said He was and made a statement that he wanted to be in the same place Jesus was going. Yes, it was a death bed experience. But...when Jesus makes a promise, He means it.

What does the statement mean?

- **It is never too late in this life to accept Jesus as God's Son.**

"You believe in God, believe also in me."

"If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10:9

For God so loved the world that He gave us His begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

But...Today is the day of salvation. Don't wait!

- **Today...Not in the future...Not after the end of the world...Not when the Rapture takes place. Today...the thief will be with Jesus.** The Bible is clear and straight forward, *"To be absent from the body is to be with the Lord."*
- **The mortal flesh is being destroyed...but, the immortal part of you is not.**

This thief was dying. His body would be placed in a pile or heap of dead and deteriorating corpses. Just as the body decays, cremated by a

fire, or is deteriorated in the ocean, there is an elimination of flesh (from dust to dust).

Jesus states that we will have a new body...resurrected to life...But, in the meantime, our soul and spirit is moving, living, laughing, rejoicing, enjoying, and getting everything the Lord has prepared for us. Just read Revelation 21 and 22.

- **The thief will be with Jesus.** Where Jesus is, there you may be also. Jesus went to heaven to prepare a place for us. He does not lie... “Where I am, there you may be also.”
- **Paradise...**Jesus went there! Now, the thief will be there...that day...with Jesus. Kind of sounds like we truly should “not let our heart be troubled”...doesn’t it!

3. “It is finished.”

Victory over Satan’s dominion has been completed. A pathway to be with the Father, be with our loved ones, eternal life with all its benefits, has been fulfilled and no more blood sacrifices need to be made to assure and insure the salvation of our souls.

- **A pathway to heaven was drawn and laid out for construction of the new temple (Holy Spirit living in us). We are covered in the blood (like the priests were under the old covenant). Blood was given to make lives holy before the Lord God, the Father.**
- **Only One who could fulfill the mission to be the sacrificial Lamb. The Lamb who was set out to be slain before the beginning of the world.**

Our responsibility: Believe and receive new life in Christ. Then...tell the world about this new life and how to achieve it.

Do you want to live life as a believer and say at the end, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course and now there lays up for me a crown who the Lord will give me on that day?”

Can we say, “I have completed the responsibilities Jesus commanded for me?”

4. “Thomas, you believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen, but yet believe.” John 20:29

- **One of the cherished truths and promises Jesus left us while He was here on earth was a blessing often overlooked by many believers.**
- **Even the disciples will not receive the blessing that was promised by Jesus in the above Scripture.**
“Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)
- **We have to rely on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to tell us, convict us, and convince us that Jesus was who He said He was.**
 - ✓ **The disciples witnessed the miracles and witnessed the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It convinced them of His deity.**

- ✓ We don't know due to visual or convincing proof that Jesus was real and exactly who He said He was.
- ✓ It is because of faith and an extraordinary measure of trust we believe God...and His Son...as being the only way to obtain this special blessing promised by Jesus Himself.

Conclusion:

What can we learn from the words of Jesus?

1. He does not lie.

The only characteristic that is different between God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son...

- *God cannot die nor lie (according to Scripture).*
- *Jesus cannot lie, but He was willing to die. Where would we be if He was not willing to come to earth as deity and mortal man...and to die on the cross as the blood sacrifice for the sins of man? Answer: No hope, no chance for life after death.*

2. Jesus fulfilled Scripture and proved He was the Son of God.

There are no Scriptures that contradict the fact that Jesus was who He said He was.

- *The Old Testament Scriptures prophesied the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.*
- *The blood covenant in the Old Testament was a foretaste of the Blood Covenant in the New Testament. (Innocent lambs slain; Innocent Lamb of God slain).*
- *Man's sin must be punished (Man is totally depraved and unworthy of salvation)...but, God was not willing to give man to Satan. His plan was from the beginning. God's provision and man's choosing.*
- *Sin is detestable and ugly in every way. How sin was paid for was ugly and brutal...but, God loved the world and Jesus was willing to die a horrible, gruesome death to cover the sin of man.*

3. Jesus made it clear that the way to the Father was through the Son (Belief, trust, and the willingness to believe the Words of Jesus).

- *Everything about God's plan for man to come to Jesus was to give undeserving benefits, undeserving access to God and heaven, and*

an undeserving reprieve of a death sentence for the faithful ones who accept Jesus as their Savior.

- *God is a “pro-life” God. Jesus is a “pro-life” Savior. However, both are “pro-choice” when it comes to salvation (Hear me out before you turn me off).*
 1. *God is a life abundant God.*
 2. *God is a loving and caring God.*
 3. *God does not force salvation through His Son on anyone.*
 4. *God cannot let sin enter heaven. Therefore, the choices man makes has a lasting and eternal destiny for the soul of man.*

4. Pay attention to Jesus’ words.

You can’t say, “Well, Jesus was only talking about what was going on in the culture of His time.”

Not only were the quotes Jesus made in the Word of God important for the time of the world then, it is “life” for the world today.

But, the miracles and works of Jesus we read in the Word of God is only a drop in the bucket as to what He said and did while He was on earth.

“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” (John 21:25)

Give Jesus your life...from beginning of your journey as a believer to the very end!

The benefits we have as believers (Christians) are more than our minds can comprehend.

“As it is written, ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. But God has revealed it to us by His Spirit.’ (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)