

THE THINGS THAT JESUS TAUGHT

Our challenge today is to make sure we are preaching the good news of the Kingdom **as Jesus taught it**, not as modified by erroneous and unsubstantiated prophetic interpretations. We need to focus on the plain, open, actual, authentic, unadulterated teachings of Christ, not the hidden, shrouded, obscure messages of prophecies – prophecies that are hidden for a reason! So what did Jesus actually teach?

1. He taught that the time had come when mankind could enter, actually and literally, into the Kingdom of the Heavens:

“Repent, you people, for **the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.**” – *Matthew 4:17*

“Then he went around throughout the whole of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and **preaching the good news of the kingdom** and curing every sort of disease and every sort of infirmity among the people.” – *Matthew 4:23*

“Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, since the **kingdom of the heavens belongs to them.** Happy are those who mourn, since they will be comforted. Happy are the mild-tempered ones, since they will inherit the earth. Happy are those hungering and thirsting for righteousness, since they will be filled. Happy are the merciful, since they will be shown mercy. Happy are the pure in heart, since **they will see God.** Happy are the peaceable, since **they will be called ‘sons of God.’** Happy are those who have been persecuted for righteousness’ sake, since **the kingdom of the heavens belongs to them.** Happy are you when people reproach you and persecute you and lyingly say every sort of wicked thing against you for my sake. Rejoice and leap for joy, since **your reward is great in the heavens;** for in that way they persecuted the prophets prior to you.” – *Matthew 5:3-11*

2. He taught that God is our Father:

“You must pray, then, this way: **‘Our Father** in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth. Give us today our bread for this day; and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the wicked one.’ For if you forgive men their trespasses, **your heavenly Father** will also forgive you; whereas if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will **your Father** forgive your trespasses.” – *Matthew 6:9-15*

3. He taught that we are all brothers:

“But you, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas **all you are brothers**. Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One.” – *Matthew 23:8-9*

4. He taught that from the very beginning of time, the Father wanted mankind to have an ownership interest in the heavenly kingdom:

“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, **inherit** the kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world.’” – *Matthew 25:34*

5. He taught that in order to enter the Kingdom of the Heavens, we must be born again:

“In answer Jesus said to him: “Most truly I say to you, Unless anyone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” – *John 3:3*

6. He taught that we must strive to imitate him as he imitated our Father:

“You must accordingly be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” – *Matthew 5:48*

7. He taught that we must endeavor to know him and the Father:

“This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.” – *John 17:3*

8. He taught that we only need to keep two ‘commandments’ in order to please God:

“[O]ne of them, versed in the Law, asked, testing him: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ He said to him: ‘**You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.**’ This is the greatest and first commandment. The second, like it, is this, ‘**You must love your neighbor as yourself.**’ On these two commandments the whole Law hangs, and the Prophets.” – *Matthew 22:35-40*

9. He taught us to seek forgiveness of our sins and to forgive others:

“Give us today our bread for this day; and **forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors**. And do not bring us into

temptation, but deliver us from the wicked one.’ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; whereas if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” – *Matthew 6:11-15*

10. He taught us to stop judging others:

“**Stop judging that you may not be judged**; for with what judgment you are judging, you will be judged; and with the measure that you are measuring out, they will measure out to you. Why then do you look at the straw in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the rafter in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Allow me to extract the straw from your eye’; when, look! a rafter is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First extract the rafter from your own eye, and then you will see clearly how to extract the straw from your brother’s eye.” – *Matthew 7:1-5*

11. He taught us the supreme law of fairness:

“**All things**, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must likewise do to them; this, in fact, is what the Law and the Prophets mean.” – *Matthew 7:12*

12. And he gave us a work to do:

“**Go therefore** and make disciples of people 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 the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things.” – *Matthew 28:19-20*

These are the basic tenets of the true good news of the kingdom. As we grow in knowledge and appreciation of these simple ideas, Jesus promised that the Spirit of Truth will work with us to guide us into even greater truths:

“I have many things yet to say to you, but you are not able to bear them at present. However, when that one arrives, the spirit of the truth, **he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak of his own impulse, but what things he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things coming.” – *John 16:12-13*

“*Elaia Luchnia*”