

HE cares

NEW TESTAMENT

with Psalms & Proverbs



New Living
Translation®

SECOND EDITION

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
Carol Stream, Illinois

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foreword

NONE OF US expect that we will ever receive a bad report from a medical test. Somehow we manage to go about our daily lives blissfully denying the realities of our fallen, broken world. But many of us *do* actually receive frightening news about our health at some point, and at those moments, we need the reassuring truths of Scripture. We need comfort, encouragement, support, stability, and most of all, we need Hope.

When I was going through breast cancer treatment a few years ago, I found it difficult to read books on cancer or even long portions of Scripture. I was nauseated, weak, and mentally fuzzy. How I wish this marvelous version of the New Testament with practical and insightful comments by Lynn Eib had been available. I have read each section of the notes with tears in my eyes, overwhelmed by the genuine comfort and solace Lynn's words bring as she identifies with those who are ill. She strongly, yet tenderly—as only those who have walked the road of suffering can do—points the reader to the inner strengthening and peace that Jesus can give to those who trust Him completely.

Read the Word of God and the words of His dearly loved child Lynn and find what you need to survive and thrive on your own journey through the Valley of the Shadow.

Kay Warren

Breast cancer survivor, speaker, pastor's wife

how not to be defeated by illness

IF, as best-selling author Rick Warren says, “The greatest insights in life are found at the center of pain,” most of us probably would be satisfied with less insight if it would mean less pain, too! Suffering may be a great teacher, but it’s one class we all would just as soon skip.

But that isn’t always possible. While serious illness tends to strike the elderly most often, it’s no respecter of persons. You may be young and athletic and yet still stricken. You may be middle-aged and follow all the recommended guidelines for healthy living, but still face a health crisis. And you may have a little child still filled with wide-eyed innocence and yet fighting for life. And even if you or your loved one has lived a long life, this may not be the way you imagined those golden years to be.

So here you are at the “center of pain”—maybe physical pain, probably emotional pain, and perhaps even spiritual pain. You’re not interested in trite platitudes like: *Think positive. Things could be worse. God doesn’t give you more than you can handle.*

You need to know today that somebody really cares about your diagnosis and prognosis and more importantly has the power to do something about it.

You’ve come to the right place.

He Cares is designed for those facing serious illness, even life-threatening illnesses. It’s not just another book on the market giving advice to disease-fighting people. This book is unlike any other because it contains the very Word of God. If you’ve never read the Bible, you’re going to be amazed that these words written thousands of years ago contain the answers to your deepest needs today. And you can expect to experience God’s supernatural power in your life as He shows you how much He truly cares about you.

If you already know and love the Bible, you’re going to appreciate that *He Cares*

highlights Scriptures that speak to the special struggles of those facing a health crisis. You may know in your head that He cares, but you need to feel it in your heart.

* * *

That's the way I would describe how I felt in 1990 when I was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer at the age of thirty-six. I had a personal relationship with God for many years and even was married to a pastor, but my devastating diagnosis left me struggling to feel God's love for me.

"We found a tumor" were the four simple words that came from my doctor's lips and turned my world upside down on June 26, 1990. I can still picture my husband's ashen face as he stood at the end of my hospital gurney. This was his worst nightmare revisited as some twenty years earlier a doctor diagnosed his first wife with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease). She died while they were still newlyweds.

Although colon cancer is considered very curable in its early stages, I was not that fortunate. Mine had spread into several lymph nodes, making it a late stage 3 diagnosis and giving me about a 40 percent chance of survival.

Treatment at that time consisted of weekly chemotherapy for a year. I experienced just about every side effect possible, including strange ones like the air smelling so bad that I had to hold my nose to walk outside without getting sick! To top it off, I was extremely allergic to the main drug, which caused my nose to run, my eyes to water, and my feet and hands to swell and feel like they were on fire. Thankfully, my oncologist decided to stop the treatments after six months.

During my chemo treatments I counted hundreds of people in sixteen different states who were praying for me, so it was tough to understand why things were so difficult. I remember asking God one day, "Why aren't things going a little easier for me? Would it be too much to ask to feel normal again for just a couple of hours?" But I heard only silence from heaven.

Even though God didn't answer my question that day, I feel He has answered it in the intervening years. I now believe I was allowed to suffer so that I could encourage and support suffering people. It's a path I never would have chosen for myself, but one which has given my life more fulfillment and joy than anything else I've ever done.

In 1991 I founded the first of the three prayer support groups I still facilitate—two for cancer patients and one for those who have lost a loved one to cancer. Since 1996 my oncologist has employed me as a patient advocate, offering

emotional and spiritual encouragement to cancer patients and their caregivers. I have watched time and again as suffering people *have* found the greatest insights in life at the center of their pain, because as author Ben Patterson explains in his book *Deepening Your Conversation with God*, “When you’re well, you think you’re in charge and when you’re not, you know you aren’t.”

I also have learned more as a student of suffering at the University of Pain than I ever could have imagined. But when I was first diagnosed, that was hardly my objective.

I remember when I was in the hospital after my cancer surgery, a friend came into my room and told me God was going to teach me great things through this trial. I wanted to take the IV out of my arm, stab it into hers, and tell her, “You get into the bed and learn great things from God because I don’t want to learn this way.”

If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with a serious illness, I doubt you are rejoicing over the possibilities of what you can learn through suffering. But I hope you are praying and believing that God can touch you. Whoever you are. Right where you are.

Whether you have a bunch of questions for God or you just would like to hear His comforting voice, you have the right tool in your hands. The Word of God has the power to change your life unlike anything else you ever could read.

You even may discover there are some things that you (and many others) thought the Bible says, but it doesn’t. There aren’t any verses here or in the rest of the Old Testament that say, “God helps those who help themselves.” (Ben Franklin apparently coined that phrase.) You also won’t read, “Cleanliness is next to godliness” (twentieth-century American journalist Christopher Morley is credited with that quip). And don’t look for the comfort of the verse “This, too, shall pass” because it’s not in the Bible either. We don’t know who first uttered those wise words, but Abraham Lincoln quoted them in one of his speeches as coming from an Eastern monarch.

On the other hand, some of what you read may surprise you, as it will run counter to much of what we hear in our culture. You’ll see, among other things, that there are *not* many paths to God, but only one; the devil is real, but he doesn’t wear red tights; it is possible to know for certain you’re headed for heaven; and Jesus wasn’t a mild-mannered, happy-go-lucky guy. Instead, He experienced a wide range of human emotions: sadness, anguish, hurt, frustration, disappointment, and loneliness, and he even got really angry at least a couple of times—yet He never sinned through any of these difficult moments.

* * * *

So what's the best way to read *He Cares* and experience its powerful message? There isn't a single right way, but we can suggest several possibilities.

You can turn to the book of Matthew and read straight through like you would any book. You might want to read one chapter a day and any accompanying inspirational boxes within the chapter. Or you might want to look at the book introductions and see which theme seems to fit your interest, and then start reading that book. You also could use the topical index on page A13 to find verses and thoughts on such topics as peace, worry, healing, or heaven. Or you could check out the four themes listed on page A15 and study one of those by finding the corresponding symbols throughout the text. And finally, you could do as many people do during difficult times: Start reading in the Psalms as they are filled with people calling for God to help them get through the troubling seasons of life.

However you choose to read *He Cares*, try to read it every day. It is necessary food and refreshment for the soul, because our souls can get malnourished, too. Reading *He Cares* also will feed your mind as you fill it with absolute truths and precious promises.

If you don't want to be defeated by illness—no matter what it does or has done to you or your loved one—this is a book for you. While there may be little we can do to choose whether we get a serious illness, we believe we can do a lot to choose whether we are its victims. We don't just mean by this whether we live or die, but how illness affects us in the deepest parts of who we are. We believe illness cannot conquer our spirit unless we choose to become its victim. And we also believe that beating disease can mean more than just a physical cure.

For quite a while in my life I was "beating" cancer. There was no sign of it in my body, but it was beating me. It was controlling my mind, my attitude, and my relationship with God. It was the first thing I thought about each day and the last thing each night. It was hard to enjoy holidays and special moments because I wondered if they would be my last.

But God gradually began to enlarge my picture of beating disease as He spoke to my heart: "Whether you live or die from this is up to Me, but *how* you live is up to you."

The pressure finally was off. I would do my part to physically combat my illness, but I would not judge whether I beat it by whether I was cured or not. I would beat it no matter what, because I would refuse to let it conquer me and control my life.

Certainly we beat disease when we are declared to be in remission or cured. However, we also beat it moment by moment when we allow God, not disease, to control our thoughts. We beat it hour by hour as we remember that God's power within us is greater than any serious illness. And we beat it day by day as we trust in God's strength and not disease's weakness.

If you want to beat the grip serious illness can have on your life, you need a supernatural touch.

We are praying for you to receive that touch as you read *He Cares*. We're asking and believing that the God of the universe will reveal Himself to you as never before. We're praying that you won't just know *about* Jesus like you do some other famous person, but that you'll know Him *personally* as your Friend. We're praying that you don't view the Holy Spirit as some kind of eerie ghost, but understand He's the real Spirit of God who can live inside you and help you become all you were meant to be (even better than any human "spiritual life coach"!). And we're praying most of all that you know and have received the cure for your soul (see page 486). If you have, you cannot lose your battle with illness. Either God will take the disease out of you, or He one day will take you out of the disease.

But *He Cares* is more than a guide to your future; it's how to find healing every day along your journey. It will help you draw closer to the One whose healing touch can reach your body, mind, and spirit.

So whether your heart is looking for a place to call home or your mind is searching for some answers to life's tough questions or your spirit is thirsting for some much-needed refreshment, you have found your answer: *He Cares* and He wants to show you just how much . . . starting right now.

Lynn Eib

Cancer survivor, journalist, cancer patient advocate

helpful topics

He Cares is filled with encouragement, guidance, and answers for your heavy heart or your questioning mind. Listed here are some popular topics, which may be helpful to you as you walk this journey with a serious illness. Simply choose a topic and then turn to the pages listed for the related “inspirational boxes” and book introductions. This list is by no means an exhaustive one, but it will point you to places where God’s Word can speak to your needs.

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- Why?**—24–25, 61, 129, 180, 195, 299, 443
- Worry**—10, 53, 75, 124, 184, 193, 253
- Worshipping God**—203, 301, 361

reader's guide to margin symbols

Highlighted Verses. Scripture is filled with God's wisdom and truth. It clarifies who we are—gifted and creative beings made to have an ongoing relationship with God. It also explains how that vital relationship is broken by our own sins. It details God's work on our behalf, enabling us to receive His grace and salvation. And it reveals to us the person of Jesus Christ, Who has made our hope and healing possible.

Throughout this New Testament, you will find four different symbols sprinkled in the margins. They will help you to quickly find passages that relate to important New Testament themes.



THE RAINBOW is a sign of hope first set in the sky for Noah when God promised He never again would flood the whole earth. This symbol leads you to verses about the security, peace, and comfort found in a relationship with God.



LIGHTNING is not a force to be ignored as it has the power to injure or even kill. The power of evil should not be taken lightly either. Sin injures and kills our spiritual life with God. This symbol shows you verses about sin and its destructive power.



THE CROSS is a timeless symbol of the greatest sacrifice ever made: Jesus' death for our life. This symbol directs you to verses which explain how the Cross changed history and how anyone can find forgiveness through Jesus Christ.



THE PIERCED HAND reminds us that Jesus willingly allowed Himself to be nailed to the cross as payment for our sins. This symbol highlights for you verses about Jesus' nature and character, which prove He really is the Son of God and our Messiah.

MATTHEW

*Seek the
Kingdom of God
above all
else, and live
righteously, and
he will give
you everything
you need.*

MATTHEW 6:33

When healthcare professionals treat us, they give instructions that make it clear what we need to do—and not do—to get the desired physical results.

“If you take this drug, your symptoms will lessen.”

“If you do these exercises, you’ll improve.”

“If you don’t change your diet, you’re in for trouble.”

Sometimes we take the advice and sometimes we don’t.

The Gospel of Matthew is very much a book of practical advice for living, except this advice doesn’t just affect our physical bodies; it also influences our minds and eternal souls. It’s a prescription for living and it comes from the very Son of God Himself—Jesus, the promised Jewish Messiah. Jesus told people that if they stopped going in the direction they were headed and went in the direction of the Kingdom of God instead, their lives would be transformed. Matthew took those words to heart and went from being a despised tax collector to becoming one who did miracles for others in Jesus’ name.

Which direction are you headed in today? Toward the Kingdom of God or somewhere else? Toward living righteously or not? If you’re not sure exactly what it means to seek and live this way, just keep reading and it will become very clear as you hear Jesus’ teachings and you witness His life, death, and resurrection. Of course, if you already have *everything* you need in life, you don’t have to keep reading!

The Ancestors of Jesus the Messiah

1 This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David* and of Abraham:

- ² Abraham was the father of Isaac.
Isaac was the father of Jacob.
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.
- ³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).
Perez was the father of Hezron.
Hezron was the father of Ram.*
- ⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab.
Aminadab was the father of Nahshon.
Nahshon was the father of Salmon.
- ⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab).
Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).
Obed was the father of Jesse.
- ⁶ Jesse was the father of King David.
David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).
- ⁷ Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.
Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.
Abijah was the father of Asa.*
- ⁸ Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.
Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.*
Jehoram was the father* of Uzziah.
- ⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham.
Jotham was the father of Ahaz.
Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.
- ¹⁰ Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.
Manasseh was the father of Amon.*
Amon was the father of Josiah.
- ¹¹ Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin* and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon).
- ¹² After the Babylonian exile:
Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel.
Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.
- ¹³ Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.

Abiud was the father of Eliakim.

Eliakim was the father of Azor.

¹⁴ Azor was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Akim.

Akim was the father of Eliud.

¹⁵ Eliud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement* quietly.

²⁰As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus,* for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

²³"Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,*
which means 'God is with us.'"

1:1 Greek *Jesus the Messiah, son of David*. 1:3 Greek *Aram*, a variant spelling of Ram; also in 1:4. See 1 Chr 2:9-10. 1:7 Greek *Asaph*, a variant spelling of Asa; also in 1:8. See 1 Chr 3:10. 1:8a Greek *Joram*, a variant spelling of Jehoram; also in 1:8b. See 1 Kgs 22:50 and note at 1 Chr 3:11. 1:8b Or *ancestor*; also in 1:11. 1:10 Greek *Amos*, a variant spelling of Amon; also in 1:10b. See 1 Chr 3:14. 1:11 Greek *Jechoniah*, a variant spelling of Jehoiachin; also in 1:12. See 2 Kgs 24:6 and note at 1 Chr 3:16. 1:19 Greek *to divorce her*. 1:21 *Jesus* means "The Lord saves." 1:23 Isa 7:14; 8:8, 10 (Greek version).





²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Visitors from the East

2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men* from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose,* and we have come to worship him.”

³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities*
of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my
people Israel.”*

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

WATCHING you from a distance?

READ MATTHEW 1:23

This verse, which actually is a quote from the Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14), blows away the notion described in a Bette Midler song that “God is watching us from a distance.” It’s a beautiful melody, but incorrect theology. God is not watching us from a distance. He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to live as a human being so we could see what God is like, and so He could experience what we have to face. And after Jesus left this earth, He sent His Spirit to be with us. God is very near. If you are a believer, His Spirit lives inside you. If you are a seeker of spiritual truth, He is only a prayer away.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”*

¹⁶Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men’s report of the star’s first appearance. ¹⁷Herod’s brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A cry was heard in Ramah—
weeping and great mourning.
Rachel weeps for her children,
refusing to be comforted,
for they are dead.”*

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰“Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his

2:1 Or *royal astrologers*; Greek reads *magi*; also in 2:7, 16. 2:2 Or *star in the east*. 2:6a Greek *the rulers*. 2:6b Mic 5:2; 2 Sam 5:2. 2:15 Hos 11:1. 2:18 Jer 31:15.

mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

²¹ So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²² But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. ²³ So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ² “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.*” ³ The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”*

⁴ John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶ And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize,* he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee God’s coming wrath? ⁸ Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. ⁹ Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ¹⁰ Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize with* water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is

coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*” ¹² He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?”

¹⁵ But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.*” So John agreed to baptize him.

¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened* and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ² For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

³ During that time the devil* came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

⁴ But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say,

‘People do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the
mouth of God.’* ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶ and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

‘He will order his angels to protect you.
And they will hold you up with their
hands
so you won’t even hurt your foot on
a stone.’* ”

3:2 Or has come, or is coming soon. 3:3 Isa 40:3 (Greek version). 3:7 Or coming to be baptized. 3:11a Or in. 3:11b Or in the Holy Spirit and in fire. 3:15 Or for we must fulfill all righteousness. 3:16 Some manuscripts read opened to him. 4:3 Greek the tempter. 4:4 Deut 8:3. 4:6 Ps 91:11-12.



⁷Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.'*"

⁸Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

¹⁰"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

'You must worship the LORD your God
and serve only him.'*"

¹¹Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

The Ministry of Jesus Begins

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

¹³He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphthali. ¹⁴This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵"In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali,
beside the sea, beyond the Jordan
River,
in Galilee where so many Gentiles live,
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light.
And for those who lived in the land
where death casts its shadow,
a light has shined."*

¹⁷From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."*

The First Disciples

¹⁸One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. ¹⁹Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" ²⁰And they left their nets at once and followed him.

²¹A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too.

²²They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

Crowds Follow Jesus

²³Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ²⁴News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. ²⁵Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns,* Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

The Sermon on the Mount

5 One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ²and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

- ³"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,*
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
- ⁴God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth.
- ⁶God blesses those who hunger and thirst
for justice,*
for they will be satisfied.
- ⁷God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.
- ⁹God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children
of God.
- ¹⁰God blesses those who are persecuted
for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

¹¹"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you* and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹²Be happy about it! Be

4:7 Deut 6:16. 4:10 Deut 6:13. 4:15-16 Isa 9:1-2 (Greek version). 4:17 Or *has come*, or *is coming soon*. 4:25 Greek *Decapolis*. 5:3 Greek *poor in spirit*. 5:6 Or *for righteousness*. 5:11 Some manuscripts omit *and lie about you*.



very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Teaching about Salt and Light

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise you heavenly Father.

Teaching about the Law

¹⁷“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. ¹⁹So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and

teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

²⁰“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Teaching about Anger

²¹“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’* ²²But I say, if you are even angry with someone,* you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot,* you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone,* you are in danger of the fires of hell.*

²³“So if you are presenting a sacrifice* at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you,²⁴leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

²⁵“When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.*

5:21 Exod 20:13; Deut 5:17. 5:22a Some manuscripts add *without cause*. 5:22b Greek uses an Aramaic term of contempt: *If you say to your brother, ‘Raca.’* 5:22c Greek *if you say, ‘You fool.’* 5:22d Greek *Gehenna*; also in 5:29, 30. 5:23 Greek *gift*; also in 5:24. 5:26 Greek *the last kodrantes* [i.e., quadrans].

LIVING under a shadow

READ MATTHEW 4:16

Shadows fall *opposite* their light source. That’s why your shadow is in front of you when the sun is behind you and vice versa. The way you’re facing determines whether or not you can see your shadow easily. This physical truth has profound spiritual implications for us as we live under the shadow of illness. We have to keep facing the light in order not to see the shadow so easily.

Perhaps when you heard the diagnosis, you got out of position spiritually. You couldn’t figure out how a loving God could allow this to happen. Maybe you even felt at times as if He didn’t hear your prayers. We hope you will check today to see which way you’re facing. This prophecy from Isaiah 9:2 shows us that Jesus is the great light. You know you’re turned toward the light when you talk with Him, pouring out your heart to the One who hears, understands, and has the power to respond. Are you facing the right direction?



Teaching about Adultery

27“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’* **28**But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29**So if your eye—even your good eye*—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. **30**And if your hand—even your stronger hand*—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Teaching about Divorce

31“You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’* **32**But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

Teaching about Vows

33“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’* **34**But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. **35**And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. **36**Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. **37**Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

Teaching about Revenge

38“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’* **39**But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. **40**If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. **41**If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a

mile,* carry it two miles. **42**Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.

Teaching about Love for Enemies

43“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’* and hate your enemy. **44**But I say, love your enemies!* Pray for those who persecute you! **45**In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. **46**If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. **47**If you are kind only to your friends,* how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. **48**But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Teaching about Giving to the Needy

6“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. **2**When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. **3**But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. **4**Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Teaching about Prayer and Fasting

5“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. **6**But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

7“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. **8**Don’t be

5:27 Exod 20:14; Deut 5:18. 5:29 Greek *your right eye*. 5:30 Greek *your right hand*. 5:31 Deut 24:1. 5:33 Num 30:2.

5:38 Greek *the law that says: ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’* Exod 21:24; Lev 24:20; Deut 19:21. 5:41 Greek *million* [4,854 feet or 1,478 meters]. 5:43 Lev 19:18. 5:44 Some manuscripts add *Bless those who curse you. Do good to those who hate you*. Compare Luke 6:27–28. 5:47 Greek *your brothers*.

like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!
 9 Pray like this:

- Our Father in heaven,
 may your name be kept holy.
 10 May your Kingdom come soon.
 May your will be done on earth,
 as it is in heaven.
 11 Give us today the food we need,*
 12 and forgive us our sins,
 as we have forgiven those who sin
 against us.
 13 And don't let us yield to temptation,*
 but rescue us from the evil one.*

14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.
 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

16 "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. 17 But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. 18 Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Teaching about Money and Possessions

19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

22 "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. 23 But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

25 "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God* above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

34 "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Do Not Judge Others

7 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 For you will be treated as you treat others.* The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.*

3 "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye* when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend,* 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

6 "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy.* Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

6:11 Or Give us today our food for the day; or Give us today our food for tomorrow. 6:13a Or And keep us from being tested.

6:13b Or from evil. Some manuscripts add For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 6:33 Some manuscripts do not include of God. 7:2a Or For God will judge you as you judge others. 7:2b Or The measure you give will be the measure you get back. 7:3 Greek your brother's eye; also in 7:5. 7:4 Greek your brother. 7:6 Greek Don't give the sacred to dogs.



Effective Prayer

⁷"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹"You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

The Golden Rule

¹²"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

The Narrow Gate

¹³"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell* is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

The Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵"Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ¹⁹So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

True Disciples

²¹"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²²On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied

in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' ²³But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

Building on a Solid Foundation

²⁴"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy

8 Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. ²Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean."

³Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy.* This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed."

The Faith of a Roman Officer

⁵When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer* came and pleaded with him, ⁶"Lord, my young servant* lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain."

⁷Jesus said, "I will come and heal him."

⁸But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. ⁹I know this because

7:13 Greek *The road that leads to destruction.* 8:4 See Lev 14:2-32. 8:5 Greek *a centurion*; similarly in 8:8, 13. 8:6 Or *child*; also in 8:13.



I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it."

¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel!" ¹¹And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. ¹²But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened." And the young servant was healed that same hour.

Jesus Heals Many People

¹⁴When Jesus arrived at Peter's house, Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. ¹⁵But when Jesus touched her hand, the fever left her. Then she got up and prepared a meal for him.

¹⁶That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and

8:17 Isa 53:4. 8:20 "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself.

he healed all the sick. ¹⁷This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said,

"He took our sicknesses
and removed our diseases."*

The Cost of Following Jesus

¹⁸When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake.

¹⁹Then one of the teachers of religious law said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

²⁰But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man* has no place even to lay his head."

²¹Another of his disciples said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

²²But Jesus told him, "Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead."*

Jesus Calms the Storm

²³Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. ²⁴Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

²⁶Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid?

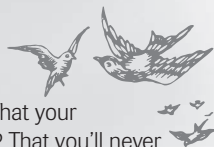
8:22 Greek *Let the dead bury their own dead.*

WORRYwarts

READ MATTHEW 6:34

What are you worried about today? That your spouse will be widowed? That your children will grow up without you? That this next holiday will be your last? That you'll never feel normal again? You may even be worried that you worry so much! Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom wrote, "Worrying about tomorrow robs today of its joy." That is so true. Your mind will find peace when you can live in the present and not in the "what-ifs" of the future. People often suggest we take life "one day at a time," but there may be some days when we can only face one *hour* or one *minute* at a time!

When you hear the phrase "what-if" pop into your mind, that's a signal you're not living in the present and are probably getting ready to worry. Most of the things you'll worry about will *not* come true anyway, so why not memorize this short verse and meditate on it instead of any "what-ifs."



You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm.

²⁷The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!"

Jesus Heals Two Demon-Possessed Men

²⁸When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes,* two men who were possessed by demons met him. They lived in a cemetery and were so violent that no one could go through that area.

²⁹They began screaming at him, "Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before God's appointed time?"

³⁰There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding in the distance. ³¹So the demons begged, "If you cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs."

³²"All right, go!" Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men and entered the pigs, and the whole herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

³³The herdsmen fled to the nearby town, telling everyone what happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴Then the entire town came out to meet Jesus, but they begged him to go away and leave them alone.

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

9 Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. ²Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven."

³But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?"

⁴Jesus knew* what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'?" ⁶So I will prove to you that the Son of Man* has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed

man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

⁷And the man jumped up and went home! ⁸Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for sending a man with such great authority.*

Jesus Calls Matthew

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?*"

¹²When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." ¹³Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.'* For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

A Discussion about Fasting

¹⁴One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, "Why don't your disciples fast* like we do and the Pharisees do?"

¹⁵Jesus replied, "Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

¹⁶"Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

¹⁷"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved."

Jesus Heals in Response to Faith

¹⁸As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. "My daughter has just died," he said, "but you can

8:28 Other manuscripts read *Gerasenes*; still others read *Gergesenes*. Compare Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26. **9:4** Some manuscripts read *sau*. **9:6** "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. **9:8** Greek for *giving such authority to human beings*. **9:11** Greek with *tax collectors and sinners*? **9:13** Hos 6:6 (Greek version). **9:14** Some manuscripts read *fast often*.

bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.”

¹⁹So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. ²⁰Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, ²¹for she thought, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.”

²²Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³When Jesus arrived at the official’s home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music. ²⁴“Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.” But the crowd laughed at him. ²⁵After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up! ²⁶The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

Jesus Heals the Blind

²⁷After Jesus left the girl’s home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on us!”

²⁸They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, “Do you believe I can make you see?”

“Yes, Lord,” they told him, “we do.”

²⁹Then he touched their eyes and said, “Because of your faith, it will happen.” ³⁰Then their eyes were opened, and they could see! Jesus sternly warned them, “Don’t tell anyone about this.” ³¹But instead, they went out and spread his fame all over the region.

³²When they left, a demon-possessed man who couldn’t speak was brought to Jesus. ³³So Jesus cast out the demon, and then the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed. “Nothing like this has ever happened in Israel!” they exclaimed.

³⁴But the Pharisees said, “He can cast out demons because he is empowered by the prince of demons.”

The Need for Workers

³⁵Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News

about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil* spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. ²Here are the names of the twelve apostles:

first, Simon (also called Peter),
then Andrew (Peter’s brother),
James (son of Zebedee),
John (James’s brother),

³Philip,
Bartholomew,
Thomas,
Matthew (the tax collector),
James (son of Alphaeus),
Thaddaeus,*

⁴Simon (the zealot*),
Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

⁵Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: “Don’t go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, ⁶but only to the people of Israel—God’s lost sheep. ⁷Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near.* ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!

⁹“Don’t take any money in your money belts—no gold, silver, or even copper coins. ¹⁰Don’t carry a traveler’s bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve to be fed.

¹¹“Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. ¹²When you enter the home, give it your blessing. ¹³If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. ¹⁴If any household or town refuses to welcome

10:1 Greek *unclean*. 10:3 Other manuscripts read *Lebbaeus*; still others read *Lebbaeus who is called Thaddaeus*. 10:4 Greek *the Cananean*, an Aramaic term for Jewish nationalists. 10:7 *Or has come, or is coming soon*.

CONFUSED and helpless

READ MATTHEW 9:35-36



Some animals are pretty smart. Dogs seem to have a sixth sense about finding their way home. Horses know how to follow the lead horse that looks out for the herd, and even pigs can be trained as indoor house pets. But sheep are another story. No offense to Shari Lewis's loveable puppet Lamb Chop, but sheep are not real bright. They get turned over on their backs and can't get themselves righted. (Maybe they originated the phrase "I've fallen, and I can't get up!") Sheep will follow one another to places where it's not safe for sheep to go—like off the edge of a cliff! They can't really help it; it's just their nature to get into ruts and lose perspective on their surroundings. So it's not exactly a compliment when the Bible says we are like sheep.

Do you feel confused or helpless today? Jesus feels compassion for you and, even more importantly, He is the Good Shepherd who knows exactly how to take care of your "sheepish" needs.

you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. ¹⁵I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.

¹⁶"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. ¹⁷But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. ¹⁸You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me.* ¹⁹When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. ²⁰For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹"A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. ²²And all nations will hate you because you are my followers.* But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When you are persecuted in one town, flee to the next. I tell you the truth, the Son of Man* will return before you have reached all the towns of Israel.

²⁴"Students* are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. ²⁵Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons,* the members of my household will be called by even worse names!

²⁶"But don't be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. ²⁷What I tell you now in the darkness, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ear, shout from the housetops for all to hear!

²⁸"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* ²⁹What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin*? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. ³⁰And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. ³¹So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

³²"Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³But everyone

10:18 Or *But this will be your testimony against the rulers and other unbelievers.* **10:22** Greek *on account of my name.*

10:23 "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. **10:24** Or *Disciples.*

10:25 Greek *Beelzeboul*; other manuscripts read *Beezeboul*; Latin version reads *Beelzebub*. **10:28** Greek *Gehenna*. **10:29** Greek *one assarion* (i.e., one "as," a Roman coin equal to 1/64 of a denarius).



who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ I have come to set a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

³⁶ Your enemies will be right in your own household!*

³⁷“If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁸If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

⁴⁰“Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. ⁴¹If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God,* you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. ⁴²And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

Jesus and John the Baptist

11 When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region.

²John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ³“Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting,* or should we keep looking for someone else?”

⁴Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—⁵the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to

the poor. ⁶And tell him, ‘God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.*’”

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. “What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? ⁸Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. ⁹Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. ¹⁰John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way before you.’*

¹¹“I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is! ¹²And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing,* and violent people are attacking it. ¹³For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time. ¹⁴And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come.* ¹⁵Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

¹⁶“To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends,

¹⁷ ‘We played wedding songs,
and you didn’t dance,
so we played funeral songs,
and you didn’t mourn.’

¹⁸For John didn’t spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, ‘He’s possessed by a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man,* on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.”

Judgment for the Unbelievers

²⁰Then Jesus began to denounce the towns where he had done so many of his miracles,

10:35-36 Mic 7:6. 10:41 Greek receive a prophet in the name of a prophet. 11:3 Greek Are you the one who is coming? 11:6 Or who are not offended by me. 11:10 Mal 3:1. 11:12 Or the Kingdom of Heaven has suffered from violence. 11:14 See Mal 4:5. 11:19 “Son of Man” is a title Jesus used for himself.

because they hadn't repented of their sins and turned to God. ²¹"What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. ²²I tell you, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you.

²³"And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead. * For if the miracles I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today. ²⁴I tell you, even Sodom will be better off on judgment day than you."

Jesus' Prayer of Thanksgiving

²⁵At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. ²⁶Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!

²⁷"My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²⁸Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

A Discussion about the Sabbath

12 At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off some heads of grain and eating them. ²But some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, "Look, your disciples are breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."

³Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He went into the house of God, and he and his compan-

ions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. ⁵And haven't you read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath? ⁶I tell you, there is one here who is even greater than the Temple! ⁷But you would not have condemned my innocent disciples if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.'* ⁸For the Son of Man* is Lord, even over the Sabbath!"

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

⁹Then Jesus went over to their synagogue, ¹⁰where he noticed a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Does the law permit a person to work by healing on the Sabbath?" (They were hoping he would say yes, so they could bring charges against him.)

¹¹And he answered, "If you had a sheep that fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you work to pull it out? Of course you would. ¹²And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, the law permits a person to do good on the Sabbath."

¹³Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored, just like the other one! ¹⁴Then the Pharisees called a meeting to plot how to kill Jesus.

Jesus, God's Chosen Servant

¹⁵But Jesus knew what they were planning. So he left that area, and many people followed him. He healed all the sick among them, ¹⁶but he warned them not to reveal who he was. ¹⁷This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah concerning him:

¹⁸"Look at my Servant, whom I have chosen.

He is my Beloved, who pleases me.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

¹⁹He will not fight or shout
or raise his voice in public.

²⁰He will not crush the weakest reed
or put out a flickering candle.

Finally he will cause justice to be victorious.

²¹ And his name will be the hope of all the world.”*

Jesus and the Prince of Demons

²² Then a demon-possessed man, who was blind and couldn’t speak, was brought to Jesus. He healed the man so that he could both speak and see. ²³ The crowd was amazed and asked, “Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?”

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, “No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan,* the prince of demons.”

²⁵ Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart. ²⁶ And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided and fighting against himself. His own kingdom will not survive. ²⁷ And if I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said. ²⁸ But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. ²⁹ For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone even stron-

ger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.

³⁰ “Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me.

³¹ “So I tell you, every sin and blasphemy can be forgiven—except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which will never be forgiven. ³² Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or in the world to come.

³³ “A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. ³⁴ You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. ³⁵ A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. ³⁶ And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. ³⁷ The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.”

The Sign of Jonah

³⁸ One day some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority.”

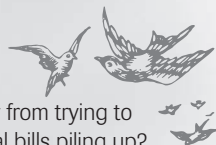
12:18-21 Isa 42:1-4 (Greek version for 42:4). **12:24** Greek *Beelzeboul*; also in 12:27. Other manuscripts read *Beezeboul*; Latin version reads *Beelzebub*.

LAY your burdens down

READ MATTHEW 11:28-30

How heavy is the load you are carrying these days? Are your arms weary from trying to hold up your loved one? Is your back breaking from the weight of medical bills piling up? Is your mind exhausted from trying to keep track of all the appointments and medications?

Jesus has an exchange He’d like to make: your heavy burdens for His light one. Notice He doesn’t promise to just take everything away so that we have *no* burdens. It’s as if right now we’re plowing through life as a single ox with a heavy yoke on our necks. When we give that big burden to Jesus, He comes alongside us, attaches His double yoke, and plows right with us. No wonder our burdens are so much lighter and we are so much less weary! You don’t have to carry this heavy load by yourself. Get rid of your I-can-do-it-myself yoke and allow Jesus to lighten the load as you walk side by side through whatever lies ahead.



FINDING the right attitude

It's often said that there are two kinds of people in life: optimists and pessimists. You probably think we're going to tell you to be an optimist, but we're not.

We have found that the best attitude for someone facing a life-threatening illness is neither total optimism (*without a doubt, I'm going to be cured*) nor total pessimism (*without a doubt, I'm going to die*), but realism (*without a doubt, I have a life-threatening illness and I may or may not get better, so I will plan for both*).

When we insist we are going to be cured, we set ourselves up for a terrible defeat if it doesn't happen. On the other hand, if we insist our situation is hopeless, we are defeated before we start. We believe it's best to be realistic and make plans to be financially, emotionally, and spiritually ready to depart this life. That's not giving up. It's coming to grips with our own mortality, so we can really live fully without fear of death.

We believe there's a difference between total optimism and a positive attitude. Total optimism says: "I'm absolutely, positively going to be cured." A positive attitude says: "I hope and pray and even expect that I'm going to be cured; but even if I'm not, I will not be defeated."

A totally optimistic attitude insists lemons will get sweeter. A positive attitude adds some sweetener and makes lemonade out of the lemons.

Author Chuck Swindoll has a wonderful description of the power of a positive attitude:

"Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I am that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it. I believe the single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. It is more important than my past, my education, my bankroll, my successes or failures, fame or pain, what other people think of me or say about me, my circumstances, or my position. Attitude keeps me going or cripples my progress. It alone fuels my fire or assaults my hope. When my attitudes are right, there's no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, no challenge too great for me."¹

We pray your heart finds the right attitude—a positive, realistic attitude.

¹Charles R. Swindoll, *Strengthening Your Grip* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, formerly Word Publishing, 1982), 206–207.

LIVING as a cured person

If you just prayed for the cure of your soul, you may be wondering what happens next. You're right in thinking this prayer is not the *end* of your spiritual journey, but really the *beginning*. You're now on your way to becoming all you were meant to be.

If your physical disease were permanently cured today, what would you do? You'd be telling everyone you knew and maybe even some you didn't know! We urge you to tell someone today that you prayed for the cure of your soul. Tell someone whom you know will rejoice because you have a relationship with God and a reservation in heaven.

Then follow these steps to keep spiritually healthy:

1. Keep reading God's Word every day. Read *He Cares* and a Bible that includes the Old Testament, too. You'll discover God's amazing love for you and what He expects of those who choose to follow Him.
2. Pray to God every day—not just at mealtimes or bedtime, but converse with Him wherever you are. You can pray in your recliner or while driving your car (just keep your eyes open!). God is with you always; be sure to talk *and* listen to Him. Find a friend who shares your faith and become “prayer partners” who meet together regularly and pray for each other.
3. Worship God with others in a church near you. Labels really don't matter—just make sure it's a life-giving congregation where the people know Jesus and are making Him known.
4. Live a life that pleases God. God's Holy Spirit lives inside you now and will supernaturally empower you to live a holy life. You, of course, still will make mistakes, but as you confess them to God, He will forgive you. Check your spiritual growth progress by asking, “Am I loving God and others more this week than last?”

You still may have problems and even sickness in your life, but your greatest problem is gone: You're no longer separated from God and someday when you die, your soul still will live forever with Him. (You'll even get a brand-new, disease-proof body!)

Until then, live your life as a cured person.

Jesus “gave his life to free us from every kind of sin” (Titus 2:14).

THE GIFT of knowing

HAVE YOU ever thought it's a gift to know you have a life-threatening illness? Of course, we wouldn't describe the diagnosis itself as a gift, but coming face-to-face with our own mortality can be a good thing.

After all, nobody is going to live on this planet forever, and many people will die without any warning—no time to say good-bye or get their affairs in order. So if we're all going to die, those of us diagnosed with a life-threatening disease have the gift of knowing our time *may* be closer than we thought, and we can use that time wisely.

If you've received the gift of knowing, we suggest you put it to good use by being prepared financially, practically, and emotionally to leave this earth.

- Make sure you have a will and your family knows where important financial papers are. If you've been the one who took care of financial matters, write out detailed instructions for whomever will take over this task.
- Make your own funeral arrangements or at least write down what your wishes are when your time does come. You'll be giving the gift of peace of mind to your family.
- If you're pretty sure you won't be here for important future dates, write cards or get small gifts to be given from you to commemorate these occasions: a graduation, a birth, a wedding, etc. It will help the recipients feel your love for them even if you're not there.
- Make certain there are no important words left unsaid. Tell (or write) your loved ones how much they mean to you. Forgive and be forgiven while there's still time. Don't leave a legacy of regret, guilt, or unresolved hurts.

"Knowing" can be a gift if you choose it to be.

VERSE INDEX FOR MARGIN SYMBOLS

Verses on God's Security, Peace, and Comfort

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1 Corinthians 15:19-20	217	1 John 3:18-20	324	Proverbs 9:10	462
1 Corinthians 15:57	219	1 John 4:7	324	Proverbs 30:5	483
2 Corinthians 4:8	224	1 John 5:10-12	326		

Verses on Sin and Its Destructive Power

LIGHTNING is not a force to be ignored as it has the power to injure or even kill. The power of evil should not be taken lightly either. Sin injures and kills our spiritual life with God and this symbol shows you verses about sin and its destructive power.

Matthew 5:21-22	6	Mark 9:43-48	59	Romans 5:12	189
Matthew 5:27-28	7	Luke 17:1-2	100	Romans 6:23	190
Matthew 13:37-39	18	Luke 19:45-46	104	Romans 7:14	191
Matthew 15:7-9	20	John 8:44	126	Romans 7:25	191
Matthew 15:18-20	21	John 16:8-9	136	Romans 8:7-8	191
Matthew 18:3	26	Romans 1:20	185	1 Corinthians 5:6-7	207
Matthew 25:41-43	37	Romans 2:8-9	185	1 Corinthians 6:9-10	208
Mark 7:14-15	55	Romans 3:10	186	2 Corinthians 4:4	224
Mark 7:20-23	55	Romans 3:20	187	Galatians 3:22	236
Mark 8:38	57	Romans 3:23	187	Galatians 5:19-21	239

Ephesians 2:1-3	242	1 John 2:16	323	Proverbs 11:7	463
Ephesians 4:18-19	245	1 John 3:9-10	324	Proverbs 14:12	467
Colossians 2:13	258	Revelation 20:12	352	Proverbs 15:29	468
Titus 1:15-16	286	Psalms 1:4	358	Proverbs 16:18	469
Titus 3:3	287	Psalms 14:1	363	Proverbs 17:20	470
Hebrews 10:31	300	Psalms 19:12-13	370	Proverbs 19:9	472
James 1:14-15	305	Psalms 36:1	380	Proverbs 20:9	473
James 2:10	306	Psalms 51:1-5	390	Proverbs 21:2	473
James 4:17	309	Proverbs 5:22	458	Proverbs 28:13	481
1 John 1:8-9	322	Proverbs 6:16-19	459	Proverbs 29:6	482

Verses on Finding Forgiveness through Jesus Christ

THE CROSS is a timeless symbol of the greatest sacrifice ever made: Jesus' death for our life. This symbol directs you to verses which explain how the Cross changed history and how anyone can find forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:25-26	23	Acts 4:11-12	150	Galatians 4:4-5	237
Matthew 19:23-26	28	Acts 11:18	160	Galatians 5:6	238
Matthew 26:27-28	38	Acts 13:46-47	163	Ephesians 1:7	242
Mark 2:17	48	Acts 15:8-9	165	Ephesians 2:8-9	243
Mark 8:34-36	57	Acts 16:31	167	Ephesians 2:13	243
Mark 10:26-27	60	Acts 20:28	173	Ephesians 5:2	245
Mark 14:24	66	Acts 26:16-18	179	Colossians 1:19-20	256
Luke 7:50	84	Romans 1:16	184	1 Thessalonians 2:13	263
Luke 9:48	88	Romans 3:28	187	2 Thessalonians 2:13-14	268
Luke 12:8-9	93	Romans 4:5	188	1 Timothy 4:10	276
Luke 13:22-24	95	Romans 5:1	188	1 Timothy 6:12	280
Luke 15:22-24	98	Romans 5:6-8	189	2 Timothy 1:8-9	278
Luke 18:14	101	Romans 9:33	194	2 Timothy 3:15	282
Luke 18:24-27	101	Romans 10:9-10	195	Titus 3:4-5	287
Luke 22:20	107	1 Corinthians 1:18	204	Hebrews 9:14	298
Luke 24:46-47	112	1 Corinthians 6:19-20	208	Hebrews 9:27-28	299
John 1:12-13	114	1 Corinthians 7:23	209	Hebrews 10:23	300
John 3:3	116	2 Corinthians 3:16-18	224	Hebrews 11:6	300
John 3:16-18	117	2 Corinthians 4:7	224	1 Peter 2:24	314
John 3:36	118	2 Corinthians 5:15	225	1 John 4:9-10	325
John 4:39-42	119	2 Corinthians 5:21	225	1 John 4:15	325
John 6:29	122	2 Corinthians 6:2	226	Revelation 22:17	356
John 9:25	127	Galatians 1:4	234	Psalms 51:7	390
John 12:46-47	133	Galatians 2:16	235	Psalms 88:1	414
John 17:3	137	Galatians 2:20	235	Psalms 95:1	418
Acts 2:21	148	Galatians 3:11	236	Psalms 103:12	423

Verses on the Nature and Character of Jesus

THE PIERCED HAND reminds us that Jesus willingly allowed himself to be nailed to the cross as payment for our sins. This symbol highlights for you verses about Jesus' nature and character, which prove he really is the Son of God and our Messiah.

Matthew 1:20-21	2	Mark 2:5	48	Luke 2:48-49	76
Matthew 3:16-17	4	Mark 8:29	57	Luke 3:21-22	76
Matthew 4:23	5	Mark 9:7	57	Luke 4:18-19	78
Matthew 16:15-17	22	Mark 10:45	60	Luke 5:8-9	79
Matthew 17:5	24	Mark 14:48-49	67	Luke 13:34	96
Matthew 20:28	29	Mark 14:61-62	67	Luke 19:9-10	103
Matthew 24:35	35	Mark 15:2	68	Luke 22:67-70	109
Matthew 26:63-64	39	Mark 15:39	69	Luke 23:3	109
Matthew 27:11	40	Mark 16:5-6	69	Luke 23:34	110
Matthew 27:54	42	Mark 16:19	70	Luke 23:42-43	110
Matthew 28:5-6	42	Luke 1:28-33	72	Luke 24:51	112
Matthew 28:20	43	Luke 2:9-11	74	John 1:1-5	114

John 1:14.	114	John 14:6.	134	Titus 2:11-13	287
John 1:18.	114	John 14:24.	135	Hebrews 1:2-3	292
John 1:29-30	115	John 15:5.	135	Hebrews 1:10	292
John 1:33.	115	John 16:30.	137	Hebrews 2:14	293
John 2:23-25	116	John 19:36-37	141	Hebrews 5:8-9	295
John 5:18.	120	John 20:28-29	142	Hebrews 9:11	298
John 6:35.	122	Acts 2:23-24	148	Hebrews 13:8	304
John 8:12.	125	Acts 3:14-15	149	1 Peter 3:18	315
John 8:58.	127	Acts 10:43	159	1 Peter 3:22	315
John 10:9.	128	1 Corinthians 8:6.	210	1 John 3:5	324
John 10:11.	128	1 Corinthians 15:25	218	Revelation 1:7	336
John 10:17-18	128	Ephesians 5:23	246	Revelation 4:11	339
John 10:30.	129	Philippians 2:6-11	251	Revelation 5:9	340
John 11:25-26	130	Colossians 1:15-18	256	Revelation 5:12-13	340
John 13:12-14	133	1 Timothy 2:5-6	273		