

***Ten Things Jesus REALLY  
Wants You to Know !!!***



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# ***Ten Things Jesus REALLY Wants You to Know !!!***

## ***#1 -- The Kingdom of Heaven***

Of all the things that Jesus taught during his first coming to the world, the subject that he probably spoke about most numerously was *'The Kingdom of Heaven'* (also called, *'The Kingdom of God'*).

In the Gospels (the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) there are about 45 separate mentions of the Kingdom of God. The book of Matthew has about 25 such references.

The first mention, in the book of Matthew, is in the Sermon on the Mount; the Beatitudes:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,  
for they shall be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven..."*

*-- Matthew 5:3 - 10 WEB*

Here are some of the most important things Jesus said about the Kingdom of Heaven and us:

*"Therefore don't be anxious, saying, 'What will we eat?', or 'What shall we drink?' or, 'With what will we be clothed?'... But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well."*

*-- Matthew 6:31 & 33 WEB*

*Being asked by the Pharisees when God's Kingdom would come, he (Jesus) answered them, "God's Kingdom doesn't come with observation; neither will they say, 'Look, here!' or 'Look, there!' for behold, God's Kingdom is within you."*

*-- Luke 17:20 - 21 WEB*

*"Seek first God's Kingdom..."* and *"...God's Kingdom is within you..."* might sound like an odd contradictory riddle but Jesus is telling us about a major aspect of our relationship with God. This aspect is tied to holiness.

Man is body, soul and spirit. And remember, so also is Jesus !

When one puts their belief and faith in Jesus, in exchange for that faith in him, Jesus shares with their spirit, a portion of holiness from his spirit; and the believer is made spiritually alive!

In the above passage from Matthew 6:31 & 33, we should first seek to honor God's holiness in all that we seek to do and are concerned about. Once we properly honor God, he in return provides for all of our needs.

In the passage from Luke 17:20 - 21, Jesus is telling us that the holiness that we should first honor in God has actually already been provided in the believer. *(I'll explain more about this later!)* So, the Kingdom of God isn't only a place we will end up going, it is something that has been provided in all who have put their faith in Christ. An important aspect of the Kingdom of God is actually a part of each and every believer.

When Jesus taught, he spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven and also tended to speak in parables. The parables were situations that were familiar to the people. But, Jesus used the parables to teach about major aspects of our spiritual life as related to our relationship with God the Father and the Kingdom of Heaven.

## #2 -- *He Actually Doesn't Like Religion*

Today, many people describe themselves as “spiritual but not religious”. Well guess what ? Jesus could have described himself in that same way.

One of the most important things that Jesus told us about our relationship with God the Father as he explained to the Woman at the Well:

*“But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to be his worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

-- John 4:23 - 24 WEB

Jesus explained, in the passage, a very important aspect of our spiritual lives.

In Jesus' time, the established religion of Israel was the temple system which was based on the Mosaic Law. That set of laws was based on the Ten Commandments and the laws given in the book of Leviticus. The Ten Commandments were given to Israel over 1,400 years prior to Jesus' birth. The main Temple, in Jerusalem was originally build about 950 years before Jesus' birth.

A set of priests controlled the Temple and were assisted by the Levites. The most influent groups of the Mosaic Law were the scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Scribes copied sacred writings and recorded historical events. The Pharisees and the Sadducees were different factions that strictly interpreted and adhered to the Mosaic Law.

The Pharisees believed in the Oral Torah as the ultimate authority while the Sadducees took the Written Torah as their authority. The different adherences of the factions led to different religious beliefs. Both factions had seats on the Sanhedrin; the court of Mosaic religious law

The Temple, in Jerusalem, was considered the most spectacular building for more than a hundred miles in any direction. The marble foundation stones of the Central Shrine building of the temple were even overlaid with gold.

Many times, Jesus had very harsh words for the Pharisees and Sadducees.

*Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat. All things therefore whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but don't do their works; for they say, and don't do. For they bind heavy burdens heavy burdens that are grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not lift a finger to help them.”*

-- Matthew 23:1 - 4 WEB

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and as a pretense you make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.*

*“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men; for you don’t enter in yourselves, neither do you allow those enter who are entering in to enter.*

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much as a son of Gehenna as yourselves.”*

*-- Matthew 23:13 - 15 WEB*

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and unrighteousness. You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the platter, that its outside may become clean also.*

*-- Matthew 23:25 - 26 WEB*

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitened tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.*

*-- Matthew 23:27 - 28 WEB*

*“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, but you bypass justice and God’s love...”*

*-- Luke 11:42 NIV*

*“Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key to knowledge. You didn’t enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in, you hindered.*

*-- Luke 11:52 WEB*

Jesus had no patience for those who were supposed to bring God’s Law to the people but instead used the Law as a weapon. On the other hand, Jesus had all the time in the world for individuals who were truly interested in knowing more about their spiritual relationship with God the Father.

Jesus was also outraged at the priests and administrators of the Temple who let the place be a business marketplace rather than a place of worship.

*The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting. He made a whip out of cords, and threw all out of the temple, both the sheep and the oxen; and he poured out the changers’ money and overthrew their tables. To those who sold the doves, he said, “Take these things out of here! Don’t make my Father’s house a marketplace!”*

*-- John 2:13 - 16 WEB*

This clearing of the temple described took place at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. Jesus actually cleared the temple more than once:

*Jesus entered into the temple of God, and drove out all of those who sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the money changers' tables and the seats of those who sold the doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer', but you are making it a den of robbers!"*

*-- Matthew 21:12 - 13 WEB*

This second clearing took place about three years after the first clearing. It was after Jesus' triumphal entry in Jerusalem. At the end of that week Jesus had died on the cross. But, with his resurrection, he triumphed over sin and death.

John the Baptist preceded Jesus and helped prepare the nation for the Messiah's coming. As Jesus' ministry grew, John's ministry shrank. John knew that this was God's will.

*They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, he baptizes, and everyone is coming to him."*

*John answered, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. This, my joy, therefore is made full. He must increase, but I must decrease."*

*-- John 3:26 - 30 WEB*

Also, as Jesus' ministry grew the priests of the Temple were threatened by his popularity. The Head Priest was a major force in deciding that Jesus should die.

*Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. The chief priests therefore and the Pharisees gathered a council, and said, "What are we doing? For this man does many signs. If we leave him alone like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."*

*But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is advantageous for us that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."*

*Now he didn't say this of himself, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but that he might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day forward they took counsel that they might put him to death.*

*-- John 11:45- 53 WEB*

So, Jesus at all does not like religion. His main focus was on teaching about and providing for the spiritual relationship that we all should have with God the Father. Jesus was critical of many of the religious leaders of his time since they had different priorities from what his were.

And “Yes”... the Lord Jesus Christ can today even be critical of some of those who partake of the religion that bears his name. To the church in Laodicea:

*“To the angel of the assembly (church) in Laodicea write:*

*“The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of God’s creation says these things:*

*“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing;’ and don’t know that you are the wretched one, miserable, poor, blind and naked...”*

*-- Revelation 3:14 - 17 WEB*



### **#3 -- Holiness - “You Must Be Holy, For I Am Holy”**

I argue that if you understand holiness, from God’s perspective, you will better understand a lot more about many aspects of Jesus’ life, his parables, why he lived for us, and why he died for us.

And, I think, you will understand a lot more about your own spiritual life.

*Holiness is anything that is within God’s divine will and is untainted by sin.*

Of God’s infinite attributes, I argue that holiness is his premier attribute. A scene is described in the book of Isaiah where the holiness of God the Father is constantly proclaimed and worshipped as he is on his throne. The proclamation is made by a group of four angels created specifically for that purpose:

*One called to another, and said,  
“Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh of Armies! The whole earth is full of his glory!”*

*The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.*

*-- Isaiah 6:3 - 4 WEB*

This scene is also described in the book of Revelation:

*The four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within. They have no rest day and night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come!”*

*-- Revelation 4:8 WEB*

When the Israelites were brought out of Egypt, God originally intended to form them into a holy nation and then use them to save the entire world.

*For I am Yahweh your God. Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any kind of creeping thing that moves on the earth. For I am Yahweh who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

*-- Leviticus 11:44 - 45 WEB*

In the prior section I presented that Jesus explained in John 4:24 that “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” So, for the believer to truly commune with God the Father, in a fashion that is acceptable to the Father, holiness must be provided in the spirit of the believer. Because, as God the Father has said: “...I am holy...”

The book of Hebrews explains much about how Jesus is the centerpiece of the plan for man’s reconciliation with God the Father. Jesus is eternal, holy and divine but he also entered into humanity.

*Since then the children have shared in flesh and blood, he (Christ) also himself in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...*

*Therefore he was obligated in all things to be made like his brothers, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people.*

*-- Hebrews 2:14 & 17 WEB*

God designed this as such so that when the believer puts their faith in Jesus, as the risen Messiah, Jesus can share with the believer's spirit a portion of holiness from his spirit.

*For [our earthly fathers] disciplined us for only a short period of time and chastised us as seemed proper and good to them; but He (God) disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness.*

*-- Hebrews 12:10 AMP*

The believer is now truly and eternally a brother or sister in Christ:

*For both He Who sanctifies [making men holy] and those who are sanctified all have one [Father]. For this reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.*

*-- Hebrews 2:11 AMP*

And, we can now truly worship God the Father in spirit.

Don't forget... from the moment one believes in Christ and becomes spiritually alive, God the Holy Spirit now truly and eternally lives in the believer.

The scriptures explain that all believers are actually under a process where they are becoming more and more holy. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 12:2 -- "*Be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*" and in 2 Corinthians 4:16 -- "*...that inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*"

Paul also wrote:

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.*

*-- 2 Corinthians 5:17 WEB*

Man and woman are body, soul and spirit. In exchange for belief in him, Jesus Christ gives life; spiritual life. He shares a portion of the holiness of his with the spirit of the believer. So, the believer's spirit is made holy.

Our soul consists of: mind, emotions and intuition. When Jesus Christ returns, he will eliminate evil from the world. So, the things that currently tempt our hearts and minds toward sin, will be gone. The scriptures explain that, in time, our bodies will be holy and Christ-like.

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working by which he is able even to subject all things to himself.*

*-- Philippians 3:20 - 21 WEB*

Complete holiness is the destiny for each and every believer and all who are In Christ. This prophecy is in the book of Revelation:

*I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. The city has no need for the sun or moon to shine, for the very glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk in its light. The kings of the earth bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. Its gates will in no way be shut by day (for there will be no night there), and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it so that they may enter. There will in no way enter into it anything profane, or one who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

-- Revelation 21:22 - 27 WEB

The scriptures have something of a preview of how we are affected by being in God's presence. This preview comes from Moses and his relationship with God. Moses' and God the Father's relationship gets to be so close that Moses is able to be in God's immediate presence.

*Yahweh [LORD] said to Moses, "I will do this thing also that you have spoken; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."*

*Moses said, "Please show me your glory."*

*He said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim Yahweh's name before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." He said, "You cannot see my face, for man may not see me and live." Yahweh also said, "Behold, there is a place by me, and you shall stand on the rock. It will happen, while my glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back; but my face shall not be seen."*

-- Exodus 33:17 - 23 WEB

*When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mountain, Moses didn't know that the skin of his face shone (was radiant) by reason of his speaking with Him (God). When Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come near him.*

-- Exodus 34:29 - 30 WEB

Moses is able to get to the point of being able to be in the presence of God the Father because of his absolute obedience and devotion to Him. Because of Moses being in God's immediate presence, they are able to share intimately. With this sharing, God's holiness is also shared between them both. Thus, Moses carries a radiance from God with him.

Understand that God desires to be intimately involved with all who have put their faith in him. Remember that another name for Jesus Christ is 'Immanuel', which according to Matthew 1:23 means "God with us".

For all who believe, our intimacy with God the Father, God the Holy Spirit and God the Son is destined to be complete.

*“... Behold, I (Jesus) am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*  
-- Matthew 28:20 WEB

*But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*  
-- Romans 8:11 WEB

*I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple.*  
-- Revelation 21:22 WEB

This is all possible because of the holiness that Jesus Christ shares with all who believe in him. And know that:

*Having therefore, brothers, boldness to enter into the holy (Holy of Holies) place by the blood of Jesus... let's draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith...*  
-- Hebrews 10:19 & 22 WEB

#### **#4 -- What Your Spiritual Food Is**

In chapter 3 of the book of John, Jesus tell Nicodemus (a member of the Jewish ruling council) that he must be “born again”:

*Jesus answered him, “Most certainly, I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can’t see God’s Kingdom.”*

*Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?”*

*Jesus answered, “Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born of water and spirit, he can’t enter into God’s Kingdom. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

*-- John 3:3 - 6 WEB*

So, Jesus is saying that we all must be ‘spiritually born’.

Jesus Christ taught that a proper spiritual life is needed for one to make proper worship of God the Father.

*“But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to be his worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

*-- John 4:23 - 24 WEB*

It is natural that after birth, comes growth. Physical growth is provided by the physical food that we eat. Believers in Christ have spiritual food that helps with our spiritual growth.

In John chapter 4, Jesus explains to his disciples what our spiritual food is:

*In the meanwhile, the disciples urged him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”*

*The disciples therefore said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”*

*Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”*

*-- John 4: 31 – 34 WEB*

There are a number of times in the scriptures when Jesus explains that he did not come to Earth to do his will, but to do his Father’s will:

*“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.”*

*-- John 6:38 WEB*

*“I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is righteous; because I don’t seek my own will, but the will of my Father who sent me.”*

*-- John 5:30 WEB*

Even unto death --

*He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire.”*

*-- Matthew 26:39 WEB*

This is important to our relationship with Christ and God the Father. Jesus declared:

*“For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.”*

*-- Matthew 12:50 WEB*

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*

*-- Matthew 7:21 WEB*

Part of God’s will is applicable to all individuals. An example of this is the Ten Commandments. Some of the Ten Commandments are:

- You shall have no other gods before me
- Honor your mother and father
- You shall not murder
- You shall not commit adultery
- You shall not steal
- You shall not lie

The Ten Commandments asserts God’s will and it is good spiritual food for all individuals; this is God’s corporate will. In addition to God’s corporate will, He has an individual will for each and every one of us. God’s individual will is spiritual food that’s intended for you but not necessarily for anybody else.

We find our individual will through our communion with God. Aspects of communion include: prayer, fasting, meditation, community worship, and holy communion.

Realizing the societal hurts in the world that break your heart may also lead to knowing God’s will for you. There are many different needs in the world. Being an ambassador of Christ, in the world, can lead to you understanding better God’s will for you.

An importance of God’s individual will is that as it becomes a bigger and bigger part of our life, it:  
1) brings us closer to God and  
2) causes habits and activities that take us away from God to become less significant to us.

Remember too, that in the same way that all benefit by eating good physical food every day, all are encouraged to partake of some spiritual food every day. It behooves all that some form of communion (prayer, fasting, meditation, community worship, or holy communion) be exercised daily.

## **#5 -- Love God With All Your Heart, Mind and Soul**

In the prior section, some of the Ten Commandments were listed. Those laws were originally given to the nation of Israel but they are all laws that would benefit any and all societies around the world. Consider this: *How many jails and prisons would be needed today if only those Ten Commandments were upheld by all; regardless of any other laws?*

The Ten Commandments are important. But Jesus explained that there is a greater Commandment:

*One of the scribes (teachers of the law) came, and heard them questioning together, and knowing that he (Jesus) had answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the greatest of all?"*

*Jesus answered, "The greatest is, 'Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment."*

*-- Mark 12:28 - 30 WEB*

One thing to know is that despite the material or monetary things that God might ask of us through offerings and sacrifices, what God wants most from us is our devotion.

In the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, Samuel (a priest, prophet and judge of Israel) admonishes Saul (Israel's first king) about not adhering strictly to what God instructed him to do with the plunder of a conquered nation:

*Samuel said, "Has Yahweh as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying Yahweh's voice? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry..."*

*-- 1 Samuel 15:22 - 23a WEB*

Just prior to Christ starting his ministry, John the Baptist admonished the Pharisees and Sadducees of Israel (John didn't like religion either!):

*Therefore produce fruit worthy of repentance! Don't think to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire.*

*-- Matthew 3:8 - 10 WEB*

The Pharisees and Sadducees took pride in that they were the established religious leaders and 'children of Abraham'. John explained that God can make children of Abraham out of the stones that were at their feet. (Remember: *...from dust you are and to dust you shall return... -- Genesis 3:19*)

John's main point is that we should conduct ourselves in a manner that indicates our reverence for God and his way of doing things.

From the Apostle Paul:

*Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service.*

*-- Romans 12:1 WEB*

Paul, again, encourages us conduct our lives in a manner that is pleasing to God; to be a living sacrifice.



## **#6 -- Love Your Neighbor as Yourself**

At the same time that Jesus was teaching that loving God with all your heart, mind and soul is the most important commandment, he also explained that loving your neighbor is the second most important.

*“The second is like this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

*The scribe said to him, “Truly, teacher, you have said well that he is one, and there is none other but he, and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”*

*-- Mark 12:31 - 33 WEB*

One thing to keep in mind about how things are today verses how they were in Jesus' time is that the today world is a much smaller place. Due to the vast amount of and immediacy of news and communication, it is not difficult to know what's going on in other parts of your locale, country or even other parts of the world. If disaster happens on the other side of the globe, we can know about it within hours.

In addition to the increase in communication, there is also a great increase in travel. In biblical times most people likely never travelled more than 100 miles from their place of birth during their entire lives.

Today, we are more connected with many more people from many different places. Our neighbors are not those who only live in our immediate vicinity. Jesus wants us to consider our treatment of others who are connected to us in some fashion.

I wrote earlier to consider how fewer jails and prisons might be needed if all obeyed only the Ten Commandments. Similarly, consider how different the world might be if all acted in consideration of others and not just in consideration of themselves or their immediate family.

## #7 -- *You Are Forgiven*

To all who put their faith in Jesus, he offers forgiveness for all sins; past, present, and future.

In the scriptures, forgiveness is probably written about more than any other subject. It is mentioned over 140 times throughout the scriptures. It was one of the main reasons Jesus came to earth.

John the Baptist on encountering Jesus:

*The next day, he (John) saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

-- John 1:29 WEB

*Again, the next day, John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"*

-- John 1:35 WEB

In Exodus 29:38 - 43 it is explained that lambs are sacrificed on a daily basis to the Lord for the sins of the people. So, Jesus came to be the sacrifice for the sins of all people; throughout all humanity.

Above John said that Jesus: "... takes away the sin of the world...". In the beginning, with the Fall, when Adam and Eve sinned, they were put into a state of spiritual death. In addition, their sin affected all of creation. What John is saying by "*the sin of the world*" is that Jesus also came to Earth to reclaim all of creation from its fallen state. All things are created through Christ (Colossians 1:15 - 22). So, Christ will recover all of his creation from the effects of sin; he takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus dying on the cross by crucifixion and his resurrection makes forgiveness possible:

*You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us. He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.*

-- Colossians 2:13 - 14 WEB

*For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin.*

-- Romans 6:5 - 6 WEB

The forgiveness provided is complete --

*As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

-- Psalm 103:12 WEB

*“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness. I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more.”*

*-- Hebrews 8:12 WEB*

*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death.*

*-- Romans 8:1 - 2 WEB*

Forgiveness is available up to the point of physical death. If you die and are in a state of spiritual death, you are in spiritual death for all eternity.

Belief in Christ provides spiritual life.

## **#8 -- God's Spirit Lives in You**

To all who have put their trust and faith in Christ, God's Spirit lives in you. This is our eternal hope.

In the scriptures, one of the first mentions of God is God the Holy Spirit:

*The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and God's Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

*-- Genesis 1:2 WEB*

God the Holy Spirit is in and through EVERYTHING; through all of the universe and all of creation. Outside of his presence, there is no existence.

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where could I flee from your presence? If I ascend up into heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, you are there!*

*-- Psalm 139:7 - 8 WEB*

Prior to Christ dying on the cross, when the Holy Spirit acted directly in a person's life, it was written that "the Spirit of the LORD (Yahweh) came upon them".

*Yahweh's Spirit came on him (Othniel), and he judged Israel; and he went out to war...*

*-- Judges 3:10 WEB*

*But Yahweh's Spirit came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered together to follow him.*

*-- Judges 6:34 WEB*

*Yahweh's Spirit came mightily on him (Samson), and he tore him as he would have torn a young goat with his bare hands...*

*-- Judges 14:6 WEB*

*"Then Yahweh's Spirit will come mightily on you, then you will prophesy with them and will be turned into another man."*

*-- 1 Samuel 10:6 WEB*

In the Old Testament scriptures, the Holy Spirit came upon servants of God in a powerful but temporary fashion.

Near the end of his life, Christ explains to his disciples that he must leave so that the Holy Spirit can come.

*“Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I don’t go away, the Counselor won’t come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”*

*-- John 16:7 WEB*

In the New Testament scriptures, it is explained that for the believer, the Holy Spirit lives in us and is a constant presence.

*“If you love me, keep my commandments. I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, that he may be with you forever: the Spirit of truth, whom the world can’t receive; for it doesn’t see him and doesn’t know him. You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you.*

*-- John 14:15 - 17 WEB*

*“Don’t you know that you are a temple of God, and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”*

*-- 1 Corinthians 3:16 WEB*

*“But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who dwells in you.”*

*-- Romans 8:11 WEB*

*That good thing which was committed to you, guard through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.*

*-- 2 Timothy 1:14 WEB*

Jesus Christ wants all believers in him to know and trust that God the Holy Spirit is their constant guide, advocate and comforter. I also wrote that the Holy Spirit is our eternal hope.

Christ wants all believers to know that though there will one day be an end to the physical life, because we are spiritually alive, the Holy Spirit insures that we will take the spiritual life that we have into eternity. The Holy Spirit lives in us now and forever more.

Also, no trouble, strife, harm or persecution that we face in this life will interfere with the Holy Spirit’s presence in us. God’s Spirit, which was present throughout all creation from the very beginning is present with us now and will be throughout all eternity. This is our eternal hope.

## #9 -- *He Loves You and is Fully Aware of You*

I cannot overstate this point enough... Jesus loves you. He really, really, really loves you.

He cares very deeply about the state of your soul and went the full distance to make the opportunity for spiritual life to be made available to you. Christ wants no one to suffer eternal death.

You wonder: "Why does he love me so much? One reason is that you are made in his image. All in mankind are.

*God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them.*

-- Genesis 1:27 WEB

A classic book of literature is "Frankenstein" by Mary W. Shelley. In the story, Dr. Frankenstein discovers a process that brings life to a being that he created from pieced together body parts of different dead people. Dr. Frankenstein is the being's creator.

Dr. Frankenstein, as a scientist, is driven to bring his discovery to fruition. But, once he brings his being to life, he is repulsed by him. He turns his back on his creation!

*It was a dreary night in November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet...*

*... I saw the dull eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.*

*How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I endeavored to form?*

*The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of human nature. I had worked hard for nearly two years, for the sole purpose of infusing life into an inanimate body. For this I had deprived myself of rest and health. I desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart...*

-- Frankenstein - Chapter V

This is how Dr. Frankenstein describes his creation:

*Oh! No mortal could support the horror of that countenance. A mummy again endued with animation could not be so hideous as that wretch. I had gazed on him while unfinished; he was ugly then; but when those muscles and joints were rendered capable of motion, it became a thing such as even Dante could not have conceived.*

-- Frankenstein - Chapter V

Once the creature realizes that he is rejected by his creator, with no hope of every being accepted, his inner being becomes dark and hateful toward Dr. Frankenstein and all whom he loves.

*“I expected this reception,” said the daemon. “All men hate the wretched; how, then, must I be hated, who am miserable beyond all living things! Yet you, my creator, detest and spurn me, thy creature, to whom thou art bound by ties only dissoluble by the annihilation of one of us. You purpose to kill me. How dare you sport thus with life? Do your duty towards me, and I will do mine towards you and the rest of mankind. If you will comply to my conditions, I will leave them and you at peace; but if you refuse, I will glut the maw of death, until it be satiated with the blood of your remaining friends.”*  
-- Frankenstein - Chapter X

The creature realizes that he is truly alone --

*“Begone! I will not hear you. There can be no community between you and me; we are enemies. Begone, or let us try out strength in a fight, in which one must fall.”*

*“How can I move thee? Will no entreaties cause thee to turn a favorable eye upon thy creature, who implores thy goodness and compassion? Believe me, Frankenstein: I was benevolent; my soul glowed with love and humanity: but am I not alone, miserably alone? You, my creator, abhor me; what hope can I gather from your fellow-creatures, who owe me nothing? They spurn and hate me.*

-- Frankenstein - Chapter X

Dr. Frankenstein did not even give his creature a name!

Most fortunately, for us, our Creator is willing to give us all that is the best of Him.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*  
-- John 3:16 WEB

All things were made through Christ. So, we are also his creation.

*All things were made through him (Christ). Without him, nothing was made that has been made.*

-- John 1:3 WEB

To those who believe in him, Christ - the Creator, also takes as friend.

*“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant doesn’t know what his lord does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you.”*

-- John 15:15 WEB

Out of his love for us, Christ entered humanity to give us an opportunity to share in his divinity. This is the core God’s plan for humanity’s reconciliation to him.

*For both he (Christ) who sanctifies [makes holy] and those who are sanctified are all from one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers...  
-- Hebrews 2:11 WEB*

*For they indeed, for a few days, punished us as seemed good to them; but he for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness.  
-- Hebrews 12:10 WEB*

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him.  
-- Romans 8:16 - 17 WEB*

Christ is the centerpiece of this plan. The same love that God the Father has for us is also in God the Son.

Another reason that Christ loves you so much... He knows you!  
Christ is fully aware of you.

*So the woman left her water pot, went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything that I did. Can this be the Christ?"  
-- John 4:28 - 29 WEB*

*Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"*

*Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?"*

*Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."*

*Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are King of Israel!"*

*-- John 1:47 - 49 WEB*

*Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in his name, observing his signs which he did. But Jesus didn't entrust himself to them, because he knew everyone, and because he didn't need for anyone to testify concerning man; for he himself knew what was in man.  
-- John 2:23 - 25 WEB*

Being the Creator, Jesus knows you. But always know that Jesus loves you and wants the best for you. And he makes available the absolute best of himself for you; a portion of his holiness.



## **#10 -- I Shall Come Again**

It is of very little dispute that Jesus Christ did live. There are sources, outside of the scriptures, that acknowledge that Jesus once lived.

A Jewish historian named Flavius Josephus gave two references to Jesus in a text on the history of Judaism, written around 93AD. Pliny and Tacitus were two Roman politicians, who were not partial to Christians or their religion, wrote about Jesus, in historical texts, about 20 years after Flavius Josephus did. The Roman politicians considered the new religion something of a superstition.

Today, the History Channel and National Geographic routinely have TV shows and magazine articles that present historical and archeological findings on Jesus Christ and the early Christian religion.

There are religions, different from Christianity, that acknowledge a belief that Jesus Christ lived. The Quran has more than 25 mentions of Jesus.

Jesus says that he will return again.

*“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and on the earth anxiety of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the waves; men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”*

*-- Luke 21:25 - 28 WEB*

With his first coming, Christ was described as a sacrificial lamb and a faithful servant.

*The next day, he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

*-- John 1:29 WEB*

*He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he didn't open his mouth. As a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he didn't open his mouth.*

*-- Isaiah 53:7 WEB*

*After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied. My righteous servant will justify many by the knowledge of himself; and he will bear their iniquities.*

*-- Isaiah 53:11 WEB*

With his second coming, things will be very different.

*I will tell of the decree: Yahweh said to me, “You are my son. Today I have become your father. Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”*

*-- Psalm 2:7 - 9 WEB*

So, while the scriptures clearly present that Jesus shall come again, John the Baptist gives a different subtle indication, that I think tends to be overlooked, about why Jesus entered humanity at all.

Jesus clearly had a hand in creation:

*All things were made through him (Christ). Without him, nothing was made that has been made.*

-- John 1:3 WEB

John the Baptist's primary purpose was to announce the coming Messiah.

*He (John) said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."*

-- John 1:23 WEB

When John first encountered Jesus, he said something subtle but extremely powerful about the Messiah's coming.

*The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin on the world!"*

-- John 1:29 WEB

When many people quote this passage they can tend to say: "... sins of the world...". Now, Christ did come to die for our sins. Believe in him and you will be saved.

But, by using the phrasing "... who takes away the sin of the world...", John is saying that Christ came to reclaim his entire creation; remove the effects of sin from all creation.

With Adam and Eve's original sin, mankind was put under spiritual death. Their sin also affected all of creation. The entire world was put into a fallen state. John the Baptist is saying that Christ came to reclaim all of creation from its fallen state; not just humanity.

With his first coming and dying on the cross, Jesus secured our salvation. With his second coming, Jesus will reclaim his entire creation.

Finally, the following prophecy from the book of Isaiah is unique in that the prophecy has elements of Jesus' first coming and elements of his second coming.

*For a child is born to us. A son is given to us; and the government will be on his shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, on David's throne, and on his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from that time on, even forever. The zeal of Yahweh of Armies will perform this.*

-- Isaiah 9:6 - 7 WEB

Christ shall return again.

*Even so it is that Christ, having been offered to take upon Himself and bear as a burden the sins of many once and once for all, will appear a second time, not to carry any burden of sin nor to deal with sin, but to bring to full salvation those who are [eagerly, constantly, and patiently] waiting for and expecting Him.*

*-- Hebrews 9:28 AMP*

Amen.

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*Other e-books by Maurice Brame  
that are on Amazon.com and BarnesAndNoble.com include:*

***Your Holiness - Your First Gift***

*and*

***The Jail Ministry Messages - Volume I***

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## ***About the World English Bible***

This writing uses the scriptures of the World English Bible (WEB) throughout its texts.

According to <http://ebible.org/web/webfaq.htm#WhatRevision> the World English Bible is an update of the American Standard Version of 1901, which is in the Public Domain.

The World English Bible (WEB) uses the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, also called *The Stuttgart Bible*, in the Old Testament, and the *Byzantine Majority Text* as published for use with *The Online Bible* in the New Testament (M-Text). It has been edited to conform to the Greek Majority Text New Testament.

Under the guidance of Rainbow Missions, Inc., a Colorado nonprofit corporation, scores of volunteer translators, editors and proofreaders have produced the World English Bible (WEB).

The goal of all those who have worked to produce the World English Bible (WEB) is to have maximum availability of the Holy Bible to all who need it (i.e. everyone).

*God's Word is for all of humanity.*

## ***About the Amplified Bible***

Some verses are designated with "AMP" which indicates that the 'The Amplified Bible' translation was used.

The Amplified Bible is a rigorous attempt to go beyond the traditional "word-for-word" concept of translation to bring out the richness of the Hebrew and Greek languages in which the Scriptures were originally written.

The "amplification" of the verses helps the reader comprehend what the Hebrew and Greek listener instinctively understood.

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