

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. **The Beatitudes** He said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **Salt and Light** "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **The Fulfillment of the Law** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. "For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. "Therefore anyone who signs aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. "For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. **Murder** "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' "But I tell you

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. "Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with the judge on the way, or you will be taken to court, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. "Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. **Adultery** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. "If your right eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for you whole body to be thrown into hell. "And if your right hand causes you to stumble, 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 go into hell. **Divorce** "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' "But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. **Christ** "Again you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' "But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is God's throne, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. "And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. "All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. **Eye for Eye** "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye,

and tooth for tooth.' "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. "And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. **Love for Enemies** "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. **CONVERSATIONS** to rise on the evil and the good, and send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? "And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? "

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **Giving to the Needy** Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. **THAT CHANGE** If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. "But when

you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who **EVERYTHING** sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **Prayer** "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. "But when you pray, go into your room, close the

door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. "

**“WHY DO YOU LOOK FOR THE
LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?”**

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Luke 24:1-7

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Luke 24:1-7

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Just as the Big Bang was a singularity that birthed the old creation, the resurrection of Jesus is the singularity that birthed the New Creation.

In the resurrection, the arrow of entropy was reversed.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Genesis 1:31

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Colossians 1:19–20

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making
peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Notice the scope of redemption: **all things**.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

God is not scrapping the physical universe; He is reconciling it. The biblical story is not about humanity climbing a spiritual ladder to escape a physical earth.

The biblical story is about the Creator descending into the muck and mire of his broken world to wash it clean and make it new.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

1 Corinthians 15:20–21

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Revelation 21:2–3

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people," and He will dwell with them.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Heaven and Earth were never meant to be permanently separated. In the beginning, Eden was the place where they perfectly overlapped: a temple where God and humanity walked together in the cool of the day.

Sin drove a wedge between them. But the promise of Revelation 21 is the ultimate reunion. Heaven comes down. The spiritual and the physical are eternally fused.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Isaiah 65:21

They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Romans 8:18–21

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable... it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Luke 24:39

Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

John 20:26

A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

The Christian hope is
“life after life after death”.
—*Surprised by Hope*, N.T. Wright

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Philippians 1:23

I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Luke 23:43

Today you will be with me in paradise.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

STARTS SEPTEMBER 22

GRIEF CARE

Grief Care is a support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one and continue to find life difficult.

Registration for the Fall session is now open. For more information, visit **seasonalgroups.com**.



Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

In the same way, we are not building the Kingdom of God by our own strength. **Only Christ will fully inaugurate the Kingdom when He returns;** however, we are building for the Kingdom.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

God will somehow take the raw materials of our faithful obedience in the present and weave them into the fabric of the New Creation.

Every time you do something that reflects the beauty, order, and love of God's Kingdom,
it is not wasted.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

1 Corinthians 15:14–19

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Lord, thank you for the empty tomb and the promise of a New Creation. As you reversed death through Jesus, empower us by your Spirit to plant signposts of your Kingdom today, knowing our labour is never in vain.

Amen.

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

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