

Book 12 - Biblical Truths -

**THE MESSAGE
OF JESUS-CHRIST
TO MAN**

**« My words are Spirit and Life. »
Jean 6 :63**

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THE GOOD NEWS

"Time has come.

The Kingdom of God is near.

Repent and believe in the Good News. "
Mark 1:15

This message, Jesus proclaimed it everywhere, from town to town, from village to village. What was the good news?

When he began his ministry, he went to the synagogue in Nazareth where he stood up to read.

He was given the book of the prophet Isaiah. Having unrolled it, he found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the **good news** to the poor. Luke 2: 16-18.

After reading, he rolled the parchment, sat down, and announced to all those who were looking at him:

"Today, this Word of Scripture that you have just heard is fulfilled. Luke 2:21.

He presented himself to all as the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Messenger of God to save Israel and the World.

The prophecy was fulfilled in His person.

This is the Good News!

It was announced to the shepherds near Bethlehem on the day of his birth by an angel:"I announce to you a Good News which will be for all the people a subject of great joy. Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you,he is CHRIST (the Messiah), the Lord. Luke 2:10.

Wrapped in sandals, dressed in a seamless white robe, Jesus Christ walked along the dusty roads and roads of Galilee. He preached a lot and taught, but he did not write anything.

"He went into Galilee, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Mark 1:14.

His words were propagated and orally preserved by the apostles who followed him and were at his school, receiving his instructions for three years.

THE ORIGIN OF THE GOSPEL

The need to fix the essential message of Christ in writing appeared some forty years after his death.

This gave birth to the Gospel, a word from the Greek: "Euaggelion", meaning "Good News". (Eu = good tiding, aggelein = to announce (in ancient Greek, agg pronounced: ang).

This is the message of salvation contained in the writings called the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The word Gospel is used 60 times by the apostle Paul in his epistles. He said of the Gospel:

"It is the power of God,
for the salvation of all who believe. Romans 1:16.

The Gospel was constantly copied and recopied carefully until its diffusion by means of printing from Gutenberg, since the 15th century.

As early as the second century, the canon of the New Testament, that is to say, the set of books recognized as authentic, was the authoritative rule of faith.

The disciples of Christ have conveyed his message to us, not only because of their astonishing memory, but also because of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Christ had said to them:

"The Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My Name will remind you of all that I have told you. John 16:26.

THE MESSAGE OF LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus preached and taught much.

In everything he said, what is his central message?
What is its content, its meaning?

The reading of the Gospel projects us images of his acts and his illustrated words, but beyond the images and the words, there is a truth to be grasped, a word carrying a message to be discovered and understood ...

Some of his disciples did not understand his language, considering his word hard to listen to, Jesus knowing it said to them:

"The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and Life. John 6:63.
Spirit and Life ...

These are two words which place his message far above all the words of men.

His words are words of life in a world where there are so many wicked, hurtful words, words of death.

Yes, Jesus Christ communicates a new life by his words to those who have faith in them. They comfort, nourish the soul, lead it into a new world, a spiritual world, in contact with God.

"No one comes to the Father except through me. "He said to Thomas who wanted to know how to go to God (John 14: 6).

He is the path that leads to God, the only mediator between God and men. There is no other!

"Come to me and through me you will go to the Father! "

That's what He means, that's the Good News.

He came to do this, to open the new and living road that leads to heaven.

"We have by the blood of Jesus a free entrance into the sanctuary by the new and living way which he has inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, its flesh. "Hebrews 10: 19-20.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMING OF CHRIST ON THE EARTH OF MEN

The great guideline of his message, which passes through the whole Gospel, and of which we must absolutely not depart, concerns the purpose of his coming to earth among men.

How many times did he not recall:

- . "I came to seek and save what was lost. Luke 19:10.
- . I came not to lose the souls of men, but to save them. John 6:39.
- . "I came to call sinners to repentance. Luke 5:32.

The love of the souls of the lost has prompted Christ to respond to the desire of his Father: to save!

When Christ came into the world, he said:

" Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me. With burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, "Here I am, it is written about me in the scroll I have come to do your will, my God." "Hebrews 10: 6-8.

He came, sent by God, to be an "expiatory victim for our sins" 1 Jn 4:10. And God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but for the world to be saved by Him. John 3:17.

His message is a message of love

He calls with kindness all sinful men "Come to me," he said,
You all who are tired and laden,
And I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28.

His invitation is addressed to ALL, regardless of race or class.

He does not refuse or impose his grace on anyone. He calls the poor, the weary of life, the wounded on the road, the desperate, the sick, the

wicked, the humble, the fishermen, the brigands and the evil people like the good people, all those who have burdens , Worries, problems.

He descends to them, goes to them; listening to their pleas and answers them, eat with them, grant them forgiveness and communicates new life to them.

When He came to the feast of tabernacles in Jerusalem, He addressed this invitation with a loud voice:

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me," he said, "and drink." Whoever believes in me, rivers of living water will flow from his bosom, as the Scripture says. He said this of the Spirit to be received by those who believed in Him. John 7: 37-39.

His message responds to the inner need for peace, justice, pure joy, of spiritual fulness.

"Let him come to **ME**," he said!

His message is centered on his person

He directed the attention of his listeners to himself.

"I will show you what he is like EVERY MAN WHO COMES TO ME, hears my words and puts them into practice. Luke 6:47.

COMING TO HIM does not consist only in approaching Him for a request, as do certain people who pray when they are in distress and who, once answered, forget God.

To come to Him is to listen to Him, to follow Him, to believe and to do what He says.

"He who comes to Me will never be hungry. John 6:35.

Jesus speaks of the hunger of the soul and offers himself as "bread of life."

His language is not materialistic

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4: 4), he said to Satan at temptation in the wilderness.

He is the Word, the Living Word and that he utters is spirit. His message about his person is far superior to anything he can teach the Jews about their faith. He did not come to teach Judaism.

He came to give his life, to sacrifice himself for the salvation of the world. He says it openly in these terms: "The bread that I will give is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world. John 6:51.

And He gave it on the cross of Calvary for anyone who believes. All men can go to Him without fear since He said:

"I will not put out

He who comes to Me. John 6:37.

His message is above all an invitation to come to Him.

BUT WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

When he was with his disciples at Caesarea Philippi, north of Galilee, near Baniyas, one of the springs of the Jordan at the foot of Mount Hermon, he asked them this question:

"Who do men say that I am, I, the Son of man?"

They replied:

"Some say you are John the Baptist,

- the others, Elie,

- the others, Jeremiah,

- or one of the prophets.

And you, who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter replied:

You are the Christ (the Messiah),

The Son of the living God. Matthew 16: 13-16

This confession, Peter made it another time, at the same time as the other apostles. When Jesus came to them, walking on the sea, they bowed down to him and said,
"You are truly the Son of God. "
Matthew 14:33.

When the Jews wanted to stone him, he said to them,
"I am the Son of God. John 10:36

He is the **Only Son of God** and the most illustrious of the Jews.

His writings and words have as a backdrop the living tradition of Judaism.

But his message goes beyond the teaching of the Pharisees and the doctors of the law.

He taught the Jewish people often by quoting Old Testament texts, and he proclaimed the Good News of Grace by presenting himself, sometimes using images:

John 14: 6 "I AM THE WAY"

John 10 9 "I AM THE GATE"

John 6:35 "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"

John 8:12 "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

John 15: 1 "I am the TRUE VINE"

John 10: 11 "I am THE GOOD SHEPHERD".

Such simple illustrations reflect great truths about himself.

He says, "I AM," and He always remains, He has not changed. This is written in Hebrews 13: 8:

"Jesus Christ is the same
Yesterday, today, forever."

And Jesus confirms this in Revelation 1: 17-18:

"I am the First and Last and the LIVING One.

I was dead, and now, I AM ALIVE
For ever and ever. "

What an extraordinary message: HE LIVES and is the PATH, the only way to go to God.

He is the Gate through which one enters into heaven by faith.

He is the Bread of Life that gives Eternal Life to the one who receives it.

He is the Living Bread that came down from heaven (John 6:50)

He is the Light that illuminates the repentant heart.

He is the vine that communicates new life.

He is the Good Shepherd who takes care of his sheep that he saved and who follow him.

Despite the simplicity of his message, not everyone understood it.

It is not enough to be instructed, yet it is necessary to have intelligence enlightened by the Holy Spirit. The apostle Peter, an uneducated man, understood the value of Jesus' words and said:

"Lord, to whom should we go ? You have the Words of Eternal Life ... and we have believed and we have known that you are the Messiah, the Holy One of God. Jn 6: 68-69.

HE is the MESSIAH.

HE is the HOLY ONE OF GOD.

ETERNAL LIFE

To the Jews who sought to kill him because he made himself equal to God (John 5:17), he made this remark:

"You probe the Scriptures because you think they have ETERNAL LIFE: they are the ones who bear witness to me, and you do not want to come to ME to have LIFE. John 5: 39-40

And he makes them understand that he who believes in him receives, here and now, ETERNAL LIFE:

"He who believes in me, has eternal life. »Jean 6: 47

What good news ! What a beautiful message of grace! To have eternal life at present.

To give us this life, he gave his own.

He says :

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.

"He is THE LIFE. He has life in himself:"

As the Father has LIFE in himself, so he gave to the Son to have life in himself. John 5:26.

He openly said what was the reason for the offering of his life:

"I came ... to give MY LIFE AS THE RANSOM FOR MANY."

Matthew 20:28

"The Father loves me because I lay down my life ... No one takes away from me, but I lay it down of myself. "

He knew he had come to "offer his body in sacrifice, a sacrifice to take away sins" (Hebrews 10: 5-12) and "that they might HAVE LIFE, and have it in abundance. John 10:10.

"I came forth from the Father," he said,

And I came into the world;

Now I leave the world

And I go to the Father. John 16:28

It states:

"I came into the world."

He was incarnate. His body was conceived miraculously in the bosom of Mary his mother by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35)

When the hour of the sacrifice of his body approached, he was conscious of it.

"As they were going through Galilee, Jesus said to his disciples," The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men; They shall kill him, and on the third day he shall rise again. Matthew 17: 22-23 and 20: 17-19.

The apostle John, who was often in the intimacy of the Lord, witnessed the intense struggle that was taking place in Him: "Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? Father, deliver me from this hour? No, **it was for this very reason** I came to this hour. John 12:27 He knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, that he had **come from God** and that he was going to God (John 13: 3)

"I know where I came from," he said, "and where I am going."
Jean 8:14

He was with God before coming here.

He recalled this in his priestly prayer:

"Father, glorify me with yourselves for the glory that I had with you before the world was. John 17: 5

"He existed in the form of God," writes the apostle Paul, " rather he made himself, nothing taking on the very nature of a servant, by being in human likeness; And been found in appearance as a human being, he humbled himself, by becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross. " Philippians 2: 6-8

Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, is the one "by whom all things have been made, and nothing that has been made has been made without Him ... He was made flesh and dwelt among men ... Grace and Truth came through Him. John 1:17

"God so loved the world that He gave

His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have ETERNAL LIFE. John 3:16

After having understood his message of salvation by his sacrifice on Calvary, and believed, the Christian must listen attentively to his instructions. The gospels make us hear the authentic and personal sound of the voice of Jesus. What he taught is both simple and full of depth.

I have selected and classified in the following pages some of his words to highlight them and help you appreciate their richness and strength so that through them your faith may be strengthened.

THE SPIRIT OF HIS WORDS

The New Birth

The language of Jesus was not embarrassed by complicated words. Yet the intellectuals, the Pharisees and the doctors of the Law did not understand the meaning of his teaching.

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he can not see the kingdom of God."

"How can a man be born when he is old? Can he return to his mother's womb and be born? "

Continuing the conversation, Jesus answered:

"If a man be born of water and spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. "

And when Nicodemus asked him,

"How can this be done?" "

Jesus made this remark: "You are Israel's teacher and you do not know these things! John 3: 1-10.

The words of Jesus require a spiritual understanding. Jesus spoke of a birth of the soul in a new world, a new life in communion with God, through faith in his sacrifice on the cross; As he then explains to Nicodemus, reminding him of what Moses did in the wilderness:

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up (on the cross) so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. John 3: 14-15.

Living Water

Another time it was a woman simple that Jesus had a conversation, sitting on the curb of Jacob wells. This Samaritan woman had come at midday to draw water from the well and Jesus to say to her:

"If you knew the gift of God and who is the one who says to you: Give me to drink ... You would have asked him to drink, and he would have given you living water. "

Astonished and not understanding what Jesus wanted to teach her, she said to him: "Lord, you have nothing to draw from, and the well is deep; Where would you have that living water? John 4: 10-11.

Jesus spoke of spiritual water for the soul, of his forgiveness, of his grace, of the life of the spirit, of inner peace, of deep joy, which He gives to those who believe in Him.

The language of Jesus was very strange to her. However, during the interview, Jesus spoke to her about her private life and how to worship God. It was then that she discovered that Jesus was the expected Messiah, the Messenger of God. In speaking with Him, her soul awakened and she believed.

Flesh and Blood

It is essential to clearly distinguish between the letter of the word and the spirit of the word.

After performing the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus taught the people at length, explaining that He is the "Bread of Life", specifying: "The Bread I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the Life of the world. John 6:51.

Jesus spoke of his sacrifice on the cross and when he added,
"He that eateth me shall live by me. John 6: 57
Many of his disciples said,
"This word is hard, who can listen to it? "

"Eating" Jesus or "eating his flesh and blood" are words that can not be taken literally. That is why Jesus said: "It is the Spirit that quickeneth, the flesh is of no use. John 6: 60-63.

Life and Death

Martha came to meet Jesus and said,
"My brother Lazarus is dead"
And to console her Jesus made this surprising declaration to her:
"He that believeth in Me shall never die." John 11:21.

His brother Lazarus believed in Jesus, and yet death did not spare him.
Jesus had said on another occasion:
"If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death. John 8:51.

Jesus did not speak of the death of the body. He said this to the Pharisees and the Jewish people:
"If you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.
John 8:24.

To die in his sins is to know the death of the soul, for:
"The soul that sin shall die. Ezekiel 18: 4.

"You were dead by your trespasses and your sins," says the Apostle Paul in his letter to Ephesians 2: 1.

Jesus gives eternal life to the soul.

"He who hears my word," he said, "and believes in him who sent me, has eternal life and does not come to judgment, but has passed from death to life." John 5:24

Thus the understanding of the spirit of his speech is indispensable to know the value of his teaching.

"Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. John 11:25

To live with Him after the death of the body is the certain hope that Christ gives us.

The apostles did not always understand his words and sometimes he explained to them the meaning and he had to "open their minds" (Mark 9: 12, Luke 24: 27 and 45).

His Unity with God

"I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. John 10:30, 14: 10-11.

By modifying the text by the deletion of a word, he is made to say what he did not say. For example, if we remove the word "in", we get this phrase: "I am the Father". Jesus did not say that. He is not the Father, but he is in communion with the Father (John 17: 21-22).

Therefore, by reading the teachings of Christ, it is important to consider both letter and spirit, remembering that it is "the spirit that quickeneth the letter" (2 Cor. 3: 6).

THE POWER OF HIS WORDS

Jesus Christ spoke with sovereign authority. He was an itinerant Preacher and Teacher. His word was life and power.

"We were astonished at His teaching because he spoke with authority. Luke 4:32

"He taught as having authority. " Matthew 7: 28-29

People listened to him, impressed by the strength and confidence with which his preaching was imbued.

Even those who had been sent by religious leaders to trap him in his words were disconcerted. In their glowing report with regard to Jesus, they said: "Never man spake like this man. (John 7:46)

Jesus was different from all preachers and Masters of the time. The power of his speech was reflected in the following facts:

The Storm

When a storm appeared on Lake Galilee, endangering the boat in which he was with his disciples, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, " Quiet! Be still! " And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:39)

Nothing surprising "For in Him were created all things that are in heaven and on earth," wrote the apostle Paul ...

" All was created by him and for him. He is before all things and all things remain in Him. Colossians 1:16.

This makes us think of creation, when God says:

" Let there be light ! And there was light ! "

Genesis 1: 3.

Death

Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. His body was beginning to experience corruption. In spite of this, Jesus ordered the stone which obstructed the entrance to the tomb to be rolled. Then he prayed and said in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out! and the dead came forth ... "(John 11: 41-44)

His voice went beyond the grave into the invisible world of spirits.

Death heard him!

What mystery and power!

Demons

The demon In the world of spirits, there are invisible beings called demons and can percolate the human bodies. The Gospel tells us that Jesus chased demons.

"In the evening, they brought to him many possessed with demons. He drove the spirits out of his Word. "Matthew 8:16

When Jesus in the synagogue of Capernaum, there was a man there who had a spirit of an unclean devil ... Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, come out of him ... and the demon came out of him." (Luke 4:35)

The demons are subject to him and obey him when he speaks to them and asks them to leave. What power!

It is not surprising that he said:

"All power has been given me in heaven and on earth" Matthew 28:18

HE SAYS :

To the paralytic:

"Get up, take your bed and walk, and the paralytic immediately walked. Mark 2: 8-12

To the leper:

"I am willing; ... and immediately the leprosy left him. Mark 1: 41-4

The deaf-mute

To the deaf-mute: "Ephphatha! " That is to say," Open up!
"Immediately the ears opened, and his tongue loosened, and he began to speak plainly." Mark 7: 34-35.

In his words, there was also the power to forgive:

"Your sins are forgiven you," he said to various people (Luke 5: 20-24, 7:48)

On the cross, though he was agonising, he addressed this prayer to God in behalf of his tormentors: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23-34.

His words possess a power of love.

What grace to belong to such a good and powerful Savior!

ITS PARABLES

"Jesus spoke to them in parables about many things" Matthew 13: 3-13

His parables were simple stories or images in which the truth was both hidden and revealed.

He captivated the crowd by the story of the prodigal son or the rich fool, or the great supper, or the lost sheep, etc.

He used illustrations familiar to the people of Israel and borrowed from the nature and customs of the country.

He mentioned in his words:

- soil, seed, thorns, birds, field, weeds, wheat, harvest, attic, flowers, lilies, sparrows, hair, lamp, salt, Light, the wind, the vine, the wine, the wedding, the snake, the viper, the goats, the sheep, the straw, the beam, the needle, the camel, the gnat, etc.

To his disciples, he explained the parables they had not understood.

"Listen to what the parable of the sower means. Matthew 13:18

Sometimes the disciples approached him to ask him what the parable meant:

"Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field ..." Matthew 13:36

And Jesus revealed to them the truths hidden in His parables. Sometimes they did not understand the language of Jesus and said, "What does he mean? John 16:17.

But patiently Jesus instructed them while reproaching them: "You do not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? Mark 4:13

The mystery of the Kingdom of God was lighting up in them little by little.

May the Holy Spirit also help us to discover every day the spiritual treasures hidden in these beautiful words and parables of Jesus Christ.

**HIS WORDS
OF ENCOURAGEMENT,
OF COMFORT,
OF CONSOLATION**

Faith comes from the Word of God and is supported by it.

Through it we receive the courage to stand in a world where difficulties arise in ways so unexpected and sometimes so painful.

Through it we possess in ourselves inner tranquility in the expectation of divine intervention to solve our problems, however complicated they may be.

"You will have tribulations in the world," said Jesus, "but TAKE COURAGE, I have conquered the world. John 16:33

He defeated and made us "more than conqueror," says the Apostle Paul (Romans 8:37)

Concerns, worries are today the daily lot of many people ... The words of Jesus are comforting:

"Do not worry about your life ... your Heavenly Father knows what your needs are. Matthew 6: 25-34

He urges us to put our faith in God who takes care of the "birds of the sky" and "clothe the lilies of the fields" with a beautiful ornament. He teaches us that faith banishes fear. What he said to his saddened apostles, he tells us all.

"Let not your heart be not troubled, believe in God, and believe in Me." John 14: 1.

"I leave you peace, I give you my peace, let not your heart be alarmed. John 14:27.

When doubt arises in our hearts and morale is at its lowest, it is good to remember what Jesus said to his apostles, words that we can make ours:

"I'm with you every day," Matt. 28:20

What grace to know that we are no longer alone. Christ is with us at all times. He gave us "the power to become children of God" (John 1:12) "and we are," says the apostle John (1 John 3:10)
These certainties allow us to climb above the dark clouds.

HIS PROMISES

Jesus never used the word "maybe". When he promises, it is always with certainty, without a shadow of a doubt.

"All that you ask in my name, I WILL DO," he says (John 14:13)

He does not say, "I may do it." He promises a certain answer.
Our faith can therefore rely on it.

Here are different promises from Jesus concerning:

Protection :

"My sheep hear my voice. I give them eternal life, they will never perish, and no one will take them away from my hand. John 10:28

Prayer :

"If two or three agree on earth to ask for anything, it will be granted to them by my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 18:19

The miracles:

"These are the miracles that will accompany those who believe, they will speak new tongues ... they will lay hands on the sick and the sick will be healed. "

(Mark 16: 17-18)

Eternal life :

"He who believes in me has Eternal Life. John 6:47

The Glory of God:

"If you believe, you will see the glory of God. John 11:40

The Holy-Spirit:

"And I will pray to the Father and he will give you another Comforter so that he may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth.

His Presence:

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them" Matthew 18:20

His return :

"I will come and take you with me." John 14: 3

His REQUIREMENTS

Jesus Christ indicated not only the conditions to be fulfilled to become his disciple, but also the rules of conduct to observe to resemble him and follow him.

"LIKE YOUR ENEMIES," he said. Do good to those who hate you. Luke 6:27

He preached unconditional love for his enemy. It is not a sentimental love to love only "those who love us" and "to greet only the brothers" (Matthew 6:46)

He even invites us "not to resist the wicked", not to stand up to him. It must be admitted that it is not easy to love those who do not love us. It is difficult, if not impossible, to rise by one's own forces to the height of such demands. However, this is not impossible with him. He proposes his help to the condition of remaining with Him, attached to Him as the branch is at the vine:

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He that dwelleth in me, and in whom I dwell, bears much fruit, for without me YOU CAN NOT DO. John 15: 5.

With one's strength, it becomes possible to practice his command:

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other, AS I HAVE LOVED YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

EACH OTHER. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for each other. John 15: 12.

His message of salvation to its extension in this new life based on love.

He particularly insisted on this golden rule:

"Whatever you want others to do for you, do the same to them, for this sums up law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12

He made it a commandment:

"This is MY COMMANDMENT: love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12 and 17

In his preaching, Jesus revealed the love of God that breaks the barriers between sinners and righteous, makes null and void the human dignity, makes the last first, transforms all traditional moral values.

Christ: "Died once and for all, the just for the unjust. "1 Peter 3:18

His message about the righteousness of God is incommensurate with human justice. He, the righteous, died as a criminal to save the guilty. The salvation he brings is not the result of the virtues or moral rules of purely formal observation of the law. Salvation is GRANTED BY GRACE to the repentant sinner who puts his faith in Jesus.

"Without the Law is manifested the righteousness of God, to which the Law and the prophets testify," says the Apostle Paul (Romans 3-21)

However Jesus was faithful to the Law (Galatians 4: 4). He never opposed his practice. But he remarked to the Jews:

"Not one of you observes the law" (John 7: 19)

He recalled that the whole Law depended on two commandments:

1. "You shall love God with all your heart ..."
2. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Matthew 22: 37-40)

The Hebrew text could be translated as:

"As you are yourself" or "for you are a man like him."

This Law of Love, Jesus did not abolish it, but accomplished it (Matthew 5:17). He is the only one to have put it into practice perfectly.

He also fulfilled what the law says concerning his coming. One day he took the twelve apostles near him and said to them:

"Behold, we go up to Jerusalem and ALL WHAT WAS WRITTEN by the prophets about the Son of man will be ACHIEVED. Luke 18:31.

He spoke the same language to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, to whom he explained:"In all the Scriptures, what concerned him, beginning with Moses and all the prophets. Luke 24:37

In his sermon on the mountain, he remarked that "not the smallest letter will disappear until ALL is ACCOMPLISHED. Matthew 5:18

And when he died on the cross, he exclaimed, "All is ACCOMPLISHED. "John 19: 30.

As part of his theme on love, here are some of his exhortations:

"Do not mutter between you. John 6:43

"Forgive" Mark 11:25

"Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful." Luke 6:36

Among his other demands, the Gospel mentions these words:

. "If anyone wants to come after me,
That he renounces himself,
Let him take charge of his cross,
And follow me. "Matthew 16:24

Following him is possible insofar as we allow him to direct our life in his own way.

- "Go, preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

La transmission de son message à tous les hommes est également un ordre qui s'adresse à chacun de nous.

. "Do this in memory of me. "1 Cor. 11:25

To deprive ourselves of the sacrament would be to disobey him, and thus not to honor his word.

HIS ADVICES

Jesus traced his line of conduct to his disciples. Full of solicitude towards them, he gave them counsels to be pleasing to God to glorify him and to remain firm in faith.

In his sermon on the mountain, he did not refer to the others, nor to the doctors of the law, nor to the Essenes who lived in Qumran, near the Dead Sea, or to some Jewish philosopher. His language, different from that of the tradition of the ancients, engaged him himself with the words: "BUT I, I tell you" (Matthew 5: 28-32)

After announcing the beatitudes, he gave his disciples various advice.

Of testimony:

"Let your light shine before men. "Matthew 5:16

Of forgiveness:

"Go and reconcile yourself with your brother, then come and present your offering. "Mat. 5:24

Of alms:

"When you give alms, let your left hand not know what your right hand is doing." "Mat. 6: 3

Of prayer:

"Pray, do not multiply vain words ... for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "Mat. 6: 8

Of fasting:

"When you fast, perfume your head and wash your face ... and your Father who sees in the secret will return it to you. "Mat. 6: 17-18

money :

"Do not gather up treasures for yourselves on earth, but gather up treasures in heaven. "Mat. 6: 19-20

Of the judgment:

"Judge not that ye be not judged. Math. 7: 1

One of his recommendations concerns especially vigilance and prayer:"
WATCH AND PRAY, that you may not fall into temptation; The mind is well disposed, but the flesh is weak. "Mat. 26: 41

"WATCH AND PRAY AT ALL TIMES, so that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will happen and to appear standing before the Son of Man. Luke 21:36

And, as regards his return, he gave this warning:

"BE READY yourself, for the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not think of it. Luke 12:40

He again said:

"BEWARE OF YOURSELF, lest this day come upon you unexpectedly. Luke 21:34.

HIS WORDS OF HOPE

On the eve of his death on the cross, Jesus had his last supper with his disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem on Mount Zion. It was dark. Judas, the traitor, had gone out. The eleven were sad because Jesus had told them that he was going to die.

To console and encourage them, he made promises to them concerning his return. And he said to them:

"I WILL COME BACK, and I will take you to be with me, so that you also may be where I am. John 14: 3

It was not the first time he had spoken of his return. One day he sat down on the Mount of Olives and his disciples asked him this question:

"What will be the sign of your coming? Matthew 24: 3.

After having enumerated signs before his second coming, he said:"As lightning that comes from the east is visible in the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew 24:27

"The Son of Man will appear on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. Matthew 24: 30

When he was in heaven, seated at the right hand of God, he revealed to the apostle John the unfolding of the events of the end of time and ended with these words:

"YES, I COME SOON! "
Revelation 22:20

While waiting for his return, which is near, let us apply ourselves to reading and re-reading his message and his instructions, remembering that he said:

**"If anyone loves me,
HE WILL KEEP MY WORD;
And my Father will love him;
We will come to him And we will make
Our home at home. "**

John 14: 23

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