

# What Jesus Taught about Love & faith

## Jesus taught that God is love.

He said "God loves the world . . ." (John 3:16)

Time & again he encouraged us to seek a personal relationship with God as our father. He told us to pray:  
"Our Father, who is in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9-13)

## He also taught that God expects us to love.

Jesus said that love is the heart of the ten commandments. His Golden Rule was: *"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."* (Matthew 7:12)

Jesus also explained that the greatest commandment is *"Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."* (Matthew 22:37-40)

How much does Jesus expect us to love God & others? He said, *"Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect."* (Matthew 5:48)

## He often said that we do not love God & others as we should and that this separates us from God.

Jesus told a story about a man named "Lazarus" who begged for food in front of a rich man's house. The rich man had fine clothes & plenty to eat. Lazarus was covered in sores & wished he could eat the scraps from the rich man's table. Lazarus died and was carried to heaven by angels. The rich man also died & was buried but was taken to hell. There he cried out for Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water & come cool his tongue. The rich man is answered from heaven: *"between us there is a great, fixed separation."* (Luke 16:20-25)

Jesus said **we are all separated from God**, because we do not love like we should. One morning while he was teaching in the temple, religious leaders brought a woman before him. *"Teacher" they said, "this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act!"* Jesus replied, *"he who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone."* Knowing their own hearts, the crowd left. Jesus said we should be careful of accusing others because all of us have sinned. (John 8:1-11)

## Jesus lived & died to give us peace with God.

His life & death have special meaning to God. He lived a perfect life. Jesus truly loved God and others and therefore obeyed all of God's commandments. He said, *"I came to fulfill God's law."* (Matthew 5:17)

He also taught that his death would have special significance, *"Greater love has no one than this, that*

*he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command."* (John 15:13) *"I have not come to be served but to serve and to give my life as a ransom."* (Matthew 20:28)

Romans executed Jesus on a cross outside Jerusalem and placed his dead body in a stone tomb. But he came back to life three days later!  
(Mark 9:31; Matthew 27:35; 28:9)

He lived the life we should live; yet he died the death we should die. He lives today and we can share his life. *"I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10)

## Jesus said we should return to God with faith.

Jesus told the story of a son who wanted his inheritance although his father had not yet died. The son took the money & ran away from home. In a far country he wasted every penny he had on wild living. He got a job feeding pigs, but the pay was poor & he was so hungry that he wished he could eat the pigs' food. At the end of his rope, he decided to go home. *"When he was still far off his father saw him. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But his father said, 'bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. For my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" Jesus explained "likewise there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* (Luke 15:10-32)

He said that **we have peace with God when we receive him with faith, belief & trust.**

*"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

*After reading what he taught, what do you think about Jesus?*

*Do you want to be forgiven & have a personal relationship with God through Jesus?*

*Today, admit your guilt before God and embrace a new life as a follower of Jesus Christ & his teachings.*

Talk with someone about starting a new life in Christ or contact us for more information:  
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