

RED LETTERS STUDY



PURPOSE

Jesus' public ministry here on earth was roughly 3 years. We can assume, based on John 21:25, that not everything Jesus talked about or said was documented. Per John, "Were every one of them written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

From the teachings of Jesus, we have over 2/3rds of the New Testament authors trying to unpackage the gift Jesus gave them personally. From those writings we have hundreds of thousands of Books, millions of words and countless hours upon hours of sermons – all because of the words Jesus spoke now represented by the "Red Letters" found in your Bible.

If so much commentary can come from other people trying to better understand the words of Jesus, we should probably spend more time studying those words of Jesus and how they relate to us as individuals rather than relying upon someone else's efforts.

Jesus' Bible

The Bible as we know it was being lived out during the time of Jesus and the Old Testament was not yet in a "Book" form. The CODEX technology was not yet available. It was mostly in separate scrolls only available in the Synagogues of each community and even then most Synagogues did not have a complete set. The Jewish culture was centered around knowing the text. They memorized it, prayed it daily, and organized their lives around remembering what God had done for them. We have to know Jesus' Bible to better understand His words.

Jesus' Words

When studying the words of Jesus, we can safely assume that when He speaks, His words have been carefully weighed and are significant. Jesus quotes from His Bible throughout His teachings to the 12. When studying the words of Jesus', assume He is referencing His Bible and seek to find the reference there that is applicable to His words.

Red Letter Study

The following will be the topics for discussion walking through Matthew as the basis:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Baptism of Jesus and His temptation in the Wilderness 	Matthew 3 & 4:1 - 11 Mark 1:1 - 13 Luke 3:1 - 22 & 4:1 - 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus begins His Ministry 	Matthew 4:12 - 17 Mark 1:14 - 15 Luke 4:14 - 15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The call of the Disciples 	Matthew 4:18 - 25 Mark 1:16 - 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sermon on the Mount: The "Blessed Statements" 	Matthew 5:1 - 12 Luke 6:20 - 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salt and Light 	Matthew 5:13 - 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfilling of the Law 	Matthew 5:17 - 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anger, Lust, Divorce, Oaths, Retaliation and Loving Enemies. 	Matthew 5:21 - 48 Luke 6:27 - 36
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving to those in need 	Matthew 6:1 - 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lord's Prayer 	Matthew 6:5 - 15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fasting 	Matthew 6:16 - 18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasures in Heaven 	Matthew 6:19 - 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't be Anxious 	Matthew 6:25 - 34
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judging Others 	Matthew 7:1 - 6 Luke 6:37 - 42
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask, Seek, Knock 	Matthew 7:7 - 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Golden Rule 	Matthew 7:12 - 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tree and its fruit 	Matthew 7:15 - 20 Luke 6:43 - 45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I never knew you 	Matthew 7:21 - 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build your house upon the Rock 	Matthew 7:24 - 27 Luke 6:46 - 49
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority of Jesus 	Matthew 7:28 - 29

Preparing for the Next Meeting

Spend some time in the text. Cross check and word search (Biblegateway.com / Blue Letter Bible) phrases to understand how many times they were in the Bible. Example - When Jesus is tempted in the Wilderness, He quotes from the Old Testament. Where are they from - what is the back story there. Is there anything that we need to understand in the original text that will help us better understand Jesus' use when He said it?

Let the journey begin.