

What Jesus Actually Said

The Original Message

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What if the most influential teacher in history has been misunderstood for 2,000 years? In red-letter Bibles, Jesus’s own words are printed in red. Read just the red. Then read what the church teaches. They don’t match.

Three Questions Every Christian Should Ask

His own words. Look them up.

Where is God?

Jesus: “The kingdom of God is **within you.**” — Luke 17:21

The church: In heaven. Above you. Accessed through a priest, a building, a ritual.

Where is the Kingdom?

Jesus: “The Father’s kingdom is spread out upon the earth, and **people don’t see it.**” — Gospel of Thomas, Saying 113

The church: Later. After you die. Or after the rapture — which was invented in the 1830s by a man recovering from a horse injury.

How are you saved?

Jesus: “If you want to enter eternal life, **keep the commandments.**” — Matthew 19:17

The church: Confess Jesus as Lord, believe he died for your sins, accept the blood sacrifice.

Jesus said keep the commandments. Paul — who never met him — said confess and believe. The church followed Paul.

Who Changed the Message?

Jesus	Paul	Modern Church
Where is God? Within you (Luke 17:21)	In heaven — accessed through belief (Rom 10:9)	Follows Paul
Where is the Kingdom? Here and now (Thomas 113)	Future — caught up in the air (1 Thess 4:17)	Follows Paul
How are you saved? Keep the commandments (Matt 19:17)	Confess and believe (Rom 10:9)	Follows Paul
Forgiveness No blood (Luke 6:37)	“Without blood, no forgiveness” (Heb 9:22)	Follows Paul
Sacrifice Love mercy, not sacrifice” (Matt 9:13)	Crucifixion as ultimate blood offering	Follows Paul
The Rapture Never taught it	Source of the idea (1 Thess 4:17)	Follows Paul + Darby

Every row. The church followed Paul, not Jesus.

The Original Message Was Simpler

- **The Kingdom of God is within you** — now, not after death
- **Forgive and be forgiven** — no blood required
- **Keep the commandments** — love God, love your neighbor
- **Know yourself** — become what he was, not just a worshipper of what he was

- **Direct experience over institutional religion** — the Kingdom is already here
- **“I desire mercy, not sacrifice”** — he said it twice

Not a new religion. The original one — before it was rewritten.

Three Discoveries That Changed Everything

The Dead Sea Scrolls (1947) — 950 manuscripts hidden in caves for 2,000 years. They reveal the Essene community Jesus emerged from: shared vocabulary, shared practices, shared theology. Anti-sacrifice. Prayer over blood. A council of twelve.

The Gospel of Thomas (1945) — 114 sayings of Jesus with no crucifixion narrative, no resurrection theology, no Pauline framework. Just his words: the Kingdom within, self-knowledge as salvation, God in all things. Many scholars date its earliest layer to 50–70 CE — potentially before any canonical gospel.

The Ethiopian Bible — 81 books. 15 more than the Western canon. Preserved since the 4th century, never filtered through Nicaea or Rome. Paul’s 13 letters are there — but they’re 13 out of 35 New Testament books, not 13 out of 27. The additional texts all emphasize what Paul de-emphasized: commandments, works, and the authority of the Twelve who actually knew Jesus.

What They Don’t Teach You

The rapture was invented in the 1830s. One man — John Nelson Darby — created it while recovering from a horse injury. For 1,800 years, no Christian had ever heard of it. Not the early church, not Augustine, not Luther, not Calvin.

Isaac Newton proved two key Trinity verses were forged. 1 Timothy 3:16 was physically altered — one pen stroke changed “who” to “God.” 1 John 5:7-8 was inserted centuries after the original text. The greatest scientific mind in Western history had to keep this secret because anti-Trinitarianism was illegal.

For 300 years, every Christian was a pacifist. Every major church father said the same thing: Christians cannot kill. Then Constantine conquered under the cross in 312 CE, and within a century, only Christians could serve in the Roman military.

Jesus, his brother James, and all twelve apostles were documented vegetarians. James the Just was vegetarian from birth — same household as Jesus. Eusebius attested all twelve apostles abstained from meat. No early source documents any of them eating it. Jesus said “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” — and he meant it for all living things.

Read It Yourself

“*The Pharisees and the scribes have taken the keys of knowledge and hidden them.*” — Jesus, Gospel of Thomas, Saying 39

Don’t take our word for any of this. The texts are available. The translations exist. The keys that were hidden are public now.

1. **The Gospel of Thomas** — 114 sayings. Just his words. No Paul.
2. **The Dead Sea Scrolls** — The community Jesus came from.
3. **The Ethiopian Bible** — The canon Rome didn’t control.
4. **The Upanishads** — “The divine is within you” — 800 years before Jesus.
5. **The Tao Te Ching** — The Way that can’t be named — 500 years before Jesus.

Read the red. Then read everything else. See for yourself.



Scan for the full interactive version with sources and deep dives

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Sources: Gospel of Thomas — Thomas O. Lambdin (Nag Hammadi Library, 1990). Ethiopian Bible — R.H. Charles. Dead Sea Scrolls — Geza Vermes (1997). Newton — “Two Notable Corruptions of Scripture” (1690). Eusebius, Demonstratio Evangelica, Book 3. James the Just — Hegesippus via Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.23.