



April 12th 2026 "Upside-down Kingdom"

LOVE GOD—LOVE PEOPLE—SERVE THE WORLD

The first red-letter New Testament was published in 1899.
And the full Bible with a red-letter New Testament
was printed in 1901.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 1:1,14, 2 Corinthians 4:4

✦ Jesus **rebelled** against the world's broken systems, religious hypocrisy, and self-centered living.

✦ The words of Jesus **overturn** our assumptions, expose our hearts, and invite us into His upside-down kingdom.

✦ Beyond His confrontations with legalistic religious leaders, Jesus' main response to sinners was **love** and **compassion**.

"We must look at this world biblically, through the eyes of Jesus, rather than reading the Bible through the eyes of America."

✦ People try to fit Jesus into their lifestyle, when our **lifestyle** is what Jesus came to **transform**, so that we live a life that reflects His words and actions.

Among all the words spoken over the centuries, not a single one compares to the incredible words that our Savior shared when He was with us here on earth.

1 John 2:15-17, Philippians 2:5-8

When we discover the words of Jesus, they will uproot those ideas and challenge us to live in ways that may seem rebellious to the world but are glorious to God.

✦ Jesus' words don't just comfort us; they **confront** us and overturn the world's values—and ours.

Matthew 5:1-12—The Beatitudes. Declarations of supreme blessings.

1. Blessed are those who are **poor**.

Poor in spirit, refers to how much we need Jesus.

2. Blessed are those who **mourn**.

Deep mourning and sorrow over sin, causing repentance.

3. Blessed are those who are **humble**. **To think of oneself less, and demonstrating gentleness and self-control.**

4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. **Having a strong desire to live for God.**

5. Blessed are the merciful. **Responding with kindness.**

6. Blessed are the pure in heart. **Undivided devotion to God.**

7. Blessed are the peacemakers. **Living in and seeking peace with others.**

8. Blessed are those who are persecuted. **Persecuted for taking a stand for Jesus by living a counter cultural lifestyle.**

Homework — Read and study Matthew 5:1-12.

John 8:12, Matthew 5:14