

A NEW WAY

Escapist Religionists or Conduits of Healing, Restoration, Justice and Peace

Luke 4.43—But he said, “I must proclaim the good news [euangelion] of THE KINGDOM of God to the other towns also, because THAT IS WHY I WAS SENT.”

“Even after the battle at Mantinea, which Thucydides has described, the one who first announced the victory had no other reward for his glad tidings [euangelion – singular] than a piece of meat sent by the magistrates from the public mess” (Plutarch; Agesilaus, p. 33, 1st century, emphasis mine).

“Accordingly, when [Aristodemus] had come near, he stretched out his hand and cried with a loud voice: ‘Hail, King Antigonus, we have conquered Ptolemy in a sea-fight, and now hold Cyprus, with 12,800 soldiers as prisoners of war.’ To this, Antigonus replied: ‘Hail to thee also, by Heaven! but for torturing us in this way, thou shalt undergo punishment; the reward for thy good tidings [euangelion – plural] thou shalt be some time in getting” (Plutarch; Demetrius, p. 17, 1st century, emphasis mine).

“Why, as we are told, the Spartans merely sent meat from the public commons to the man who brought glad tidings [euangelion] of the victory in Mantinea which Thucydides describes! And indeed the compilers of histories are, as it were, reporters of great exploits who are gifted with the faculty of felicitous speech, and achieve success in their writing through the beauty and force of their narration; and to them those who first encountered and recorded the events [εὐαγγέλιον – euangelion] are indebted for a pleasing retelling of them” (Plutarch; Moralia [Glory of Athens], p. 347, 1st century, emphasis mine).

Matthew 4.23—Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news [euangelion] of THE KINGDOM, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Mark 1.14-15—After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “THE KINGDOM of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news [euangelion - gospel]!”

Matthew 10.7-8—As you go, proclaim this message: ‘THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN has come near.’ HEAL THE SICK, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

NOT JUST PASSING THROUGH (Gnosticim [Heaven Later vs. Here Now] & The Constantinian Shift [Doctrine vs. Ethics])

Luke 6.20-26—Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Matthew 5.38-42—You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not retaliate against an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 5.43-48—You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. [Teleios - complete and entire compared to what is partial or deficient.]

Matthew 7.12-14—So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Luke 19.45-20.2—When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. . . . the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the

That the world might be healed . . . – John 3.17

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

1John 3.8—The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's works.

Remptive Violence vs Unearned Suffering + Enemy Love and Forgiveness

Matthew 28.18-20—And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of ALL NATIONS . . .

Luke 4.5-6—The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

Matthew 20:22, 23—"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "**YOU WILL INDEED DRINK FROM MY CUP**, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

Luke 9.22-24—And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up **THEIR CROSS DAILY** and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Postmortem Insurance Policy (arguing over the premium) vs. a way to Heal The World.

leaders among the people were trying to kill him. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

Luke 22.4—And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard . . .

Luke 22.52—Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him . . .

I've seen too much hate to want to hate, myself, and every time I see it, I say to myself, hate is too great a burden to bear. Somehow we must be able to stand up against our most bitter opponents and say: "We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will and we will still love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws and abide by the unjust system, because non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good, so throw us in jail and we will still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and, as difficult as it is, we will still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our communities at the midnight hour and drag us out on some wayside road and leave us half-dead as you beat us, and we will still love you. Send your propaganda agents around the country and make it appear that we are not fit, culturally and otherwise, for integration, but we'll still love you. But be assured that we'll wear you down by our capacity to suffer, and one day we will win our freedom. We will not only win freedom for ourselves; we will appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory.— Martin Luther King Jr., A Christmas Sermon for Peace on Dec 24, 1967

Matthew 13.31-32—He told them another parable: "THE KINGDOM of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

John 3.16—For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have life. For God did not send his Son into the world to CONDEMN the world, but to SAVE the world through him.

Luke 10.9—HEAL THE SICK who are there and tell them, 'THE KINGDOM of God has come near to you.'

Luke 9.6—So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the GOOD NEWS [euangelion] and HEALING PEOPLE everywhere.

John 18.37-38—"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" retorted Pilate.

John 19.10—"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Hebrews 2.14,15—He too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

