

Christmas Eve 2018

I. Introduction

A. You follow Jesus because you become convinced that following Jesus is the best way to live life!

II. “When Was Jesus at His Best?”

A. “The Sermon on the Mount is the most luminous, most quoted, most analyzed, most contested, and most influential moral and religious discourse in all of human history.” (Harvey Cox)

B. Matthew 5:44-45a (NAS) ⁴⁴“*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,* ⁴⁵*so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.*”

C. Matthew 5:39 (NAS) “*But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.*”

D. Matthew 5:41-42 (NAS) ⁴¹“*Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.* ⁴²*Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.*”

E. Matthew 6:25-26 (NAS) ²⁵“*For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?* ²⁶*Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?*”

F. Jesus consistently embraced those who were excluded from society!

G. “The discoverer of the role of forgiveness in the realm of human affairs was Jesus of Nazareth.” (Hannah Arendt)

H. Luke 23:34 (NAS) “*Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.*”

I. John 3:16 (NAS) “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*”

III. A Four Word Prayer

A. Sorry

B. Thank you

C. Help

IV. Conclusion