

# ***YOU SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES***



Go ahead, search the scriptures...

**But never forget that Jesus is Lord of the scriptures.**

***“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life.  
But the Scriptures point to me!”***

*John 5:39*

The Pharisees knew their Bible.  
They had a Bible-answer for every question.  
They were experts in Bible prophecy.

But they made one big mistake:

**They put the Bible on the throne that belonged only to the King.**



When the King arrived, their attitude was, “Get out of here! The Bible is on the throne, and who are you?”

When Nicodemus insisted on allowing the King to speak, he was rebuffed.

***"Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?"  
They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search (the scriptures)  
and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee."***

*John 7:51-52*

Jesus knew the Bible far better than the Pharisees.

Moreover, he made the audacious claim that the purpose of the Bible was to bear witness to him. Even more surprisingly, Jesus did not hesitate to override the Bible again and again.

***"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, `  
You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.'***

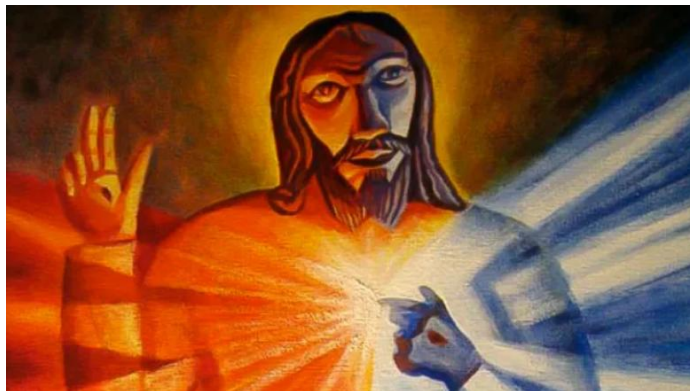
***But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment;  
whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, `You fool!'  
shall be liable to the hell of fire."***

*Matthew 5:21-22*



**"But I say to you,"** means,

**"I am Lord of the scriptures.**



**If you want to understand scripture, listen to me."**

***"Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'***

***But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.***

***Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."***

*Matthew 5:33-37*

Peter had to learn this lesson from the mouth of the Father in heaven. In Peter's Bible Moses and Elijah represented supreme authority.

Moses gave us the Law.

Elijah was the ultimate prophet.

Suddenly these two heroes of the Bible were conversing with Jesus before Peter's eyes.

***And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."***

***He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."***

***When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.***

*Matthew 17:4-8*

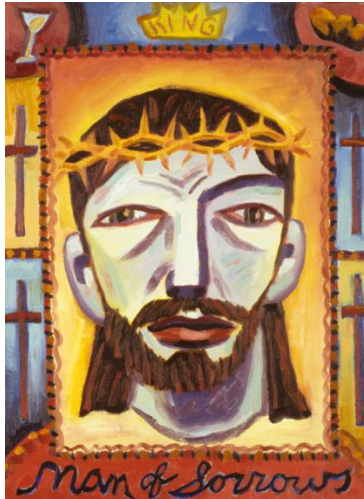


No, Peter.

Not Moses and Elijah and Jesus.

**Just Jesus.**

**Jesus only.**



**Jesus is King.**

Like the Pharisees, like Peter, many a modern Christian allows the Bible to have the final word....  
.... instead of Jesus. If we are ever to truly understand the Bible, we need to learn that Jesus is the final authority, and no one else.

When we come to a passage of scripture that baffles us, we are inclined to turn to commentaries, theologians, perhaps our favorite Bible teacher. We will be amazed at the light which will come to us when we remember that Jesus alone is Lord of scripture and come to him!

Does this troubling passage sound like Jesus?

*"Lord, in this day and age, if I'm a slave, (and there are thousands on earth at this moment), are you commanding me to submit to my master as to you?"*

*"Lord, is it your will that as a woman, I need to keep my head covered, when I come into the assembly?"*

*"Are you commanding me to keep silent in church because I'm not a man?"*

The same Lord Jesus who promises to give us **"a mouth and wisdom which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict"** (Luke 21) will surely give us a heart and wisdom to fathom the meaning of a troubling passage of scripture.

All we have to do is pay attention.

**"Before Abraham was, I AM"**

*John 8:58*

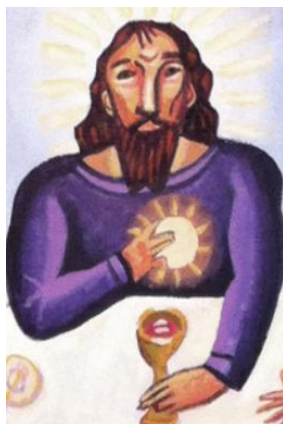
Before there was a Bible there was the Word.

***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."***

*John 1:1*

When the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, he never “pulled rank,” he never exalted himself. But he made clear to those who had ears to hear that he is not only Lord of the Sabbath....

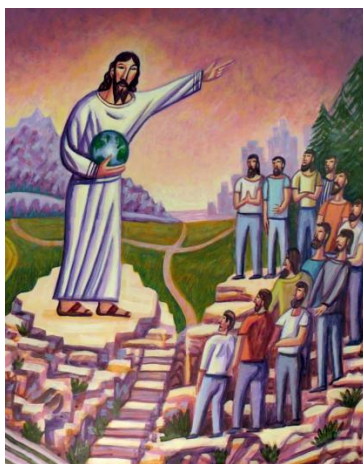
**He is Lord of scripture.**



To this day Jesus is saying,

**“You have heard that it was said to the men of old, but I say to you....”**

Lord Jesus, give us ears to hear, and hearts to obey, as you alone give us the final Word!



*Prayer: Yes Lord, give us ears to hear and hearts that obey your precious words. As we read and study scripture, help us to always hear you and see you in them. Convict us when we use the Bible to make a point, strengthen our positions, put others in their places, or take actions contradictory to your words. And when passages in the Bible trouble us or baffle us, or biblical teachers and Christian leaders twist them into interpretations that you never meant... give us the heart and wisdom to discern it. Instead, may the words of scripture inflame our hearts with such love for you that we are stirred to be sweet emissaries of your good news. Emissaries that carry your healing, your goodness, your redemption, your truth, and your life that your sweet words bring to us. Amen.*

Message: Richard E. Bieber 2019

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