

# Red Letters: The Jesus Creed

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St. Patrick's Day - there's the myth of who Patrick was and the reality of who he was - just like Jesus.

This series on "Red Letters: Discovering the Teachings of Jesus" could be titled "Wrestling with Jesus."

## THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 4:17 This is the theme of Jesus' ministry.

Matthew 3:1-2 This was John the Baptist message.

Jesus continued this on. Matthew 4:23

Instructed His followers to continue this: Matthew 10:5-8

Jesus prophesied Matthew 24:14.

## THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM

**Questions:** When you hear the term Kingdom of God, what comes to your mind? How would you describe it?

**Question:** What are some realities that make up an earthly kingdom and kingship like it was in Jesus' day with Caesar that we wouldn't be familiar with?

- **The kingdom of heaven is any place where God rules and reigns.**

What people didn't get is that it's not about geography. John 18:36 It's not about the place we go when we die.

## BECOMING PART OF THE KINGDOM

You follow the laws of the kingdom you become a part of, not the one you leave. The border crossing into the Kingdom of heaven is to "repent."

**Question:** What are some of the connotations that come to mind when you hear the word "repent"? How does looking at the example of driving on the left side of the road help? What other examples come to mind?

**Repentance means to change the way you think about life so that you change the way you live your life.**

- "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent', He willed that the whole life of believers should be one of repentance." Martin Luther
- Repentance is the process of increasingly becoming aware of the misalignment of the way we think and live when compared to the beautiful way Jesus calls us to think and live.

**Question:** How does looking at repentance as a lifestyle look different in your life than a one-time act?

**If following Jesus isn't changing your life, you're not following Jesus.**

Jesus' Kingdom is a place of:

- Healing Matthew 4:23
- Deliverance Matthew 8:16-17
- Forgiveness Matthew 9:2
- Mercy, grace and goodness Romans 4:17

The announcement of the Kingdom is Good News!

**Questions:** What areas of your life are you still driving on the wrong side of the road? What areas have not changed with following Jesus? Will you walk in repentance?

