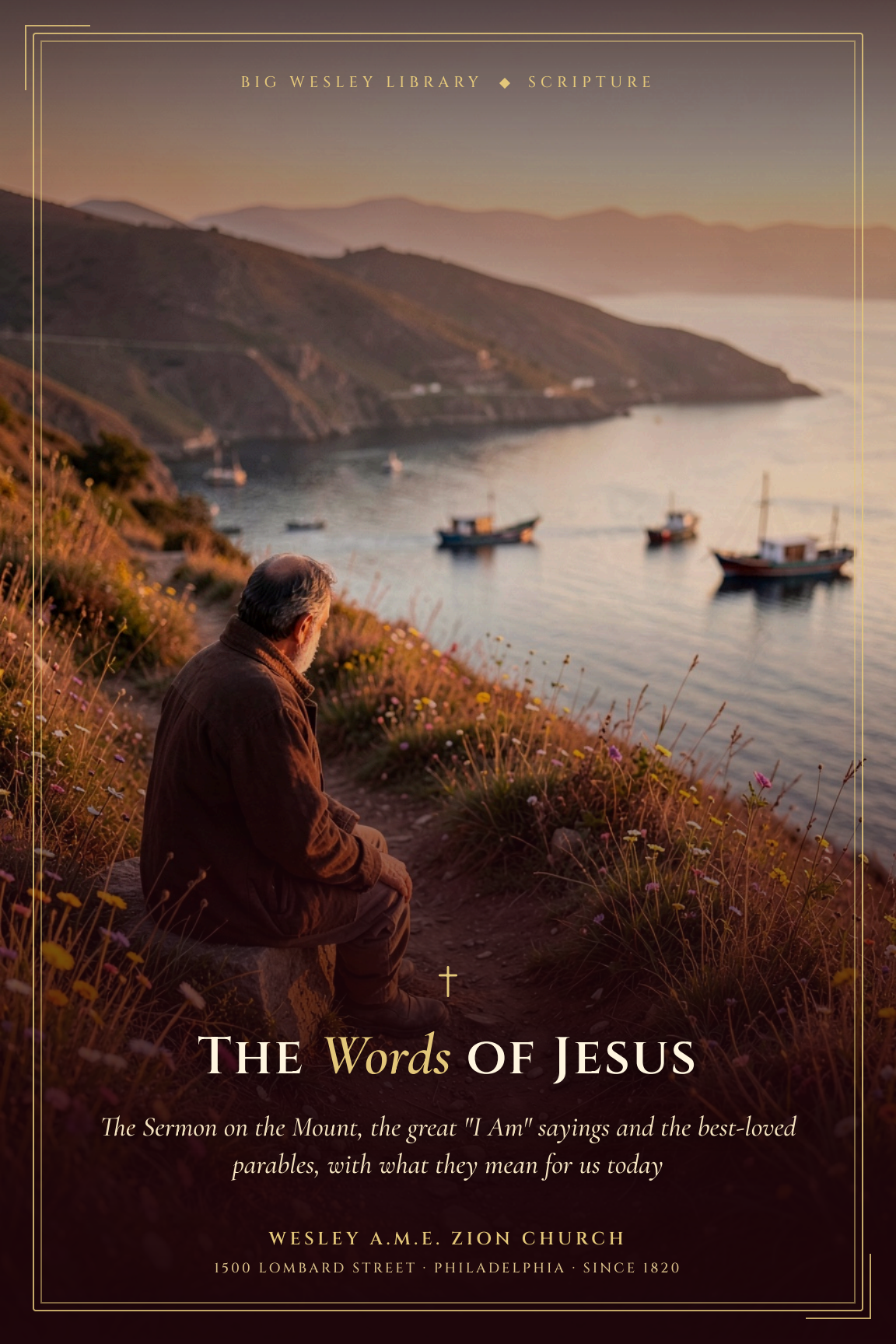


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THE *Words* OF JESUS

The Sermon on the Mount, the great "I Am" sayings and the best-loved parables, with what they mean for us today

WESLEY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

1500 LOMBARD STREET · PHILADELPHIA · SINCE 1820

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MANY OLD BIBLES PRINT THE WORDS OF JESUS IN RED INK, SO readers can find them quickly. This booklet gathers the most important of those red-letter words. Jesus taught on hillsides, in boats, in homes and on the road. He used everyday pictures — seeds, coins, lamps, sheep — so ordinary people could understand.

He also said things no ordinary teacher would say: *"I am the light of the world."* *"I am the resurrection, and the life."* Read these words slowly. They were spoken for you.

MATTHEW 5:3-12

THE BEATITUDES



The Sermon on the Mount begins with eight blessings. They turn the world upside down. The people Jesus calls *blessed* are not the rich and powerful, but the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, and the persecuted.

THE BEATITUDES · MATTHEW 5:3-12

5 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4**Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. **5**Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. **6**Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. **7**Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. **8**Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. **9**Blessed are the peacemakers: for

they shall be called the children of God. **10**Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11**Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **12**Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

KING JAMES VERSION

BLESSED ARE...	IN PLAIN WORDS
the poor in spirit	People who know they need God.
they that mourn	People whose hearts are broken. Comfort is coming.
the meek	The gentle, who don't push others around. They will inherit the earth.
they which hunger and thirst after righteousness	People who long for what is right — and for justice.
the merciful	People who forgive and help. They will be shown mercy.
the pure in heart	People with nothing to hide. They will see God.
the peacemakers	People who bring people together. God calls them His children.
they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake	People who suffer for doing right. Heaven is theirs.

SALT AND LIGHT

MATTHEW 5:13-16

5 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. **14** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. **15** Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

KING JAMES VERSION

FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

THE "I AM" SAYINGS

When Moses asked God His name, God said, *"I AM THAT I AM."* In John's Gospel, Jesus uses those same words about Himself seven times, each with a picture.

JESUS SAID	WHERE	WHAT IT MEANS
I am the bread of life	John 6:35	He satisfies the deepest hunger of the soul.
I am the light of the world	John 8:12	He shows the way through darkness.
I am the door	John 10:9	He is the way in to safety and life.
I am the good shepherd	John 10:11	He knows us and lays down His life for us.
I am the resurrection, and the life	John 11:25	Death does not have the last word.

JESUS SAID	WHERE	WHAT IT MEANS
I am the way, the truth, and the life	John 14:6	He is the road to the Father.
I am the true vine	John 15:5	Stay connected to Him, and your life bears fruit.



"I am the vine, ye are the branches." John 15:5

STORIES WITH A MEANING

THE GREAT *parables*



THE GOOD SAMARITAN · LUKE 10:30-37

A man is beaten and left on the road. Two religious leaders walk past. A Samaritan — someone the listeners despised — stops, bandages him, and pays for his care. Jesus asks: *Which one was a neighbor?* Then: *Go, and do thou likewise.* Your neighbor is anyone who needs you.

THE PRODIGAL SON · LUKE 15:11-32

A son wastes his inheritance and comes home in disgrace, hoping to be a servant. His father runs to him, hugs him, and throws a feast. The older brother is angry. The story is about a father whose love is bigger than either son's failure — and that father is God.

THE LOST SHEEP · LUKE 15:3-7

A shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to find the one that is lost, and carries it home on his shoulders rejoicing. No one is too far gone for God to come looking.

THE SOWER · MATTHEW 13:3-23

Seed falls on a path, on rocks, among thorns and on good soil. The seed is God's Word. The question is what kind of soil our hearts will be: hard, shallow, crowded, or ready to grow.

THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS · MATTHEW 7:24-27

Two men build houses. One builds on rock, one on sand. When the storm comes, only one house stands. Hearing Jesus is not enough; building our life on what He says is what holds when storms come.

THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

MARK 12:29-31

12 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: ³⁰And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. ³¹And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

KING JAMES VERSION

IN PLAIN WORDS

When someone asked Jesus which rule mattered most, He summed up the whole Bible in two: love God with everything you have, and love your neighbor as yourself. Everything else hangs on these.

FROM THE CROSS AND AFTER THE RESURRECTION

HIS LAST WORDS

WORDS	WHERE
Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.	Luke 23:34
To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.	Luke 23:43
It is finished.	John 19:30
Peace be unto you.	John 20:19
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ... lo, I am with you alway.	Matthew 28:19-20

SIT WITH IT

Which saying of Jesus challenges me the most?

Which one comforts me the most?



*“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not
pass away.”*

MATTHEW 24:35

WESLEY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

“Big Wesley” · The Freedom Church · Founded June 6, 1820

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:30 AM
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SUNDAY WORSHIP	11:00 AM
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