

The Life and Teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ

What are some of the most significant words and events of our Lord's ministry?

When we consider the significant words and events in Jesus' life and ministry, it is first important to bring to mind *why* we consider them to be so significant. The life and teaching of Jesus is important because it points to *who* He is in our Armenian Christian lives – our risen Lord and Savior. That which Jesus did on earth, as the manifestation of God in this world, is extremely important to us because it is a direct communication from God. Jesus reveals God's will for humanity and demonstrates how we are to live our lives as models of God's love and as people made in God's image.

One need not look any further than the church calendar to find some of the most significant words and events of Jesus' life. The two most popular feasts and celebrated holidays, Christmas and Easter, point to the most significant events of the life of Jesus.

Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' Incarnation (in the Armenian tradition, Theophany), is extremely important because it celebrates God's coming into the world. It ushered in a new relationship between humanity and God, because through the Incarnation, Jesus, both fully divine and fully human, fixed the bridge between humanity and God that had been broken by the sin of Adam and Eve, turning away from God through their disobedience.

Easter, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and the week that precedes it, Holy Week, is the center of the church calendar. These events are also recorded in all four gospels. Holy Week starts the day after Palm Sunday, the day which celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Each day of Holy Week is unique, but the last few days hold special significance. Great and Holy Thursday, remembers the washing of the disciples' feet, the new commandment Jesus gave to them, and Jesus' temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest. The Armenian Church holds a very special service on this day called *Khavaroom*, or "darkness." Great and Holy Friday remembers Jesus' death on the cross as a once and for all sacrifice, covering all the sins of humanity. The special Friday services of the Armenian Church spend time reflecting on the events of that Friday some two thousand years ago, Jesus' crucifixion and burial. Holy Week culminates in the grand celebration of the *Jrakalooys* service and Divine Liturgy on Easter Saturday after sundown, followed by Divine Liturgy on Easter Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death, allowing us to have new and everlasting life in Him.

Of course, while Christmas and Easter serve as critical bookends to the life of our Lord, there are also many significant things we must bring to mind that occurred during Jesus' lifetime. First, Jesus performed many miracles throughout His lifetime. These displayed His heavenly power and authority, and they also provided us a model for the kind of compassion we ought to have for others. He healed people, turned water into wine, forgave sins, calmed a raging storm, and walked on water, to name a few. These miracles prompted people to consider who he might be – not just another prophet, but the Son of God.

Jesus also taught many important lessons which contain timeless truth. One of his most well-known teachings is called the Sermon on the Mount, found in the gospel of Matthew (and Luke to a lesser extent). He taught us how to pray; it is in this set of teachings where we learn the Lord's Prayer, for example. Jesus taught lessons as timeless and universal as the Golden Rule. He taught that the greatest commandment was love of God and neighbor. He taught us not to judge, lest we be judged. He also taught about things like compassion, God's love, service to God, final judgment, and the Kingdom of Heaven through parables. Through the lessons Jesus taught us, we are able to get a glimpse of what to expect in the Kingdom of Heaven and how we ought to act if we are to walk on the path that leads to that kingdom. As the living manifestation of God on earth, Jesus sheds light on how we are to live as believers in Him.

The following pages serve as a guide to the specific life events, miracles, and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. As you read them, think of the bigger picture they paint of the God who came into the world, walked this earth, and lived a life of love and sacrifice for us. Let the words rest on your heart and give you life, hope, and inspiration.

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The Life of Jesus

Birth	Matthew 1:18-2:15, Luke 2:1-20
Baptism	Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22
In the Temple	Luke 2:21-52
Temptation	Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13
Transfiguration	Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13, Luke 9:28-36

The Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus

Entry into Jerusalem	Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, John 12:12-19
Last Supper	Matthew 26:17-35, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:1-38
Washing of the Feet	John 13:1-15
Prayer in Gethsemane	Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46
Trial and Crucifixion	Matthew 26:47-27:66, Mark 14:43-15:47, Luke 22:47-23:56, John 18-19
Resurrection	Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16, Luke 24:1-12, John 20
Ascension	Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11

The Miracles and Healings of Jesus

Turning Water into Wine	John 2:1-11
Feeding the Crowd	Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15
Calming the Storm	Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25
Walking on Water	Matthew 14:22-23, Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21
Raising the Dead	Matthew 9:18, 23-26; Mark 5:35-43; Luke 7:11-17, John 11:1-44
Casting out Demons	Matthew 8:28-34, 12:22-32, 17:14-20; Mark 1:21-28, 3:20-30, 5:1-20, 9:14-29; Luke 4:31-37, 8:26-39, 9:37-43, 11:14-23
Healing Skin Diseases	Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16; Luke 17:11-19
Healing a Bleeding Woman	Matthew 9:19-22; Mark 5:24-34, Luke 8:43-48
Healing the Blind and Deaf	Matthew 9:27-31, 20:29-34; Mark 7:31-37; 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43
Healing the Paralyzed and Crippled	Matthew 9:1-8, 12:9-14; Mark 2:1-12, 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11, 13:10-13; John 5:1-18
Healing Peter's mother-in-law	Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39
Healing the Canaanite's daughter	Matthew 15:21-28
Healing the Syro-Phoenecian's daughter	Mark 7:24-30
Healing the Centurion's servant	Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

The Parables and Teachings of Jesus

Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7
Sermon on the Plain	Luke 6:17-49
The Great Commandment	Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:27
The Golden Rule	Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31
Do Not Judge	John 8:2-11
Parable of the Mustard Seed	Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-43; Luke 13:18-19
Parable of the Sewer	Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15
Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven	Matthew 13:24-52
Parable of the Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:21-35
Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard	Matthew 20:1-16
Parable of the Tenants in the	Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 20:9-18

Vineyard	
Parable of the Wedding Feast	Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-24
Parable of the Ten Virgins	Matthew 25:1-13
Parable of the Talents	Matthew 25:14-30
Parable of the Sheep and Goats	Matthew 25:31-46
Parable of the Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
Parable of the Shepherd	John 10:1-21
Parable of the Rich Fool	Luke 12:16-21
Parable of the Fig Tree	Luke 13:6-9
Parable of the Lost Sheep	Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:3-7
Parable of the Lost Coin	Luke 15:8-10
Parable of the Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32
Parables about Wealth	Luke 16
Parable of the Widow and the Judge	Luke 18:1-8
Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Luke 18:9-14