

JESUS REALLY SAID THAT?

Five teachings of Jesus
that might surprise you

GARY MILLER

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REALLY
SAID THAT?

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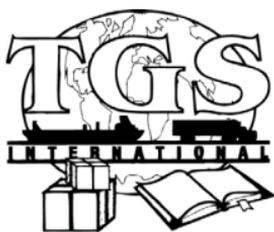
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Five teachings of Jesus often
missed, ignored, or rejected

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LAKESIDE BELIEVERS FELLOWSHIP

Jeremy leaned back in his seat savoring the finale to his favorite part of the service. All week he had looked forward to Sunday morning at Lakeside Believers Fellowship, and he knew it was partly due to that first hour of praise. His toe instinctively tapped as the worship music washed over him. He used the time to pray, his closed eyes ignoring the crowd swaying to the tempo and the lyrics gliding across the wide, center-stage screens. No doubt, Lakeside's worship team had talent, and Jeremy found the experience a wonderful way to unwind after a tough week and get his focus back on God.

As the music ended, the auditorium lights dimmed and a spotlight focused on Pastor Mike as he stepped to the microphone for prayer.

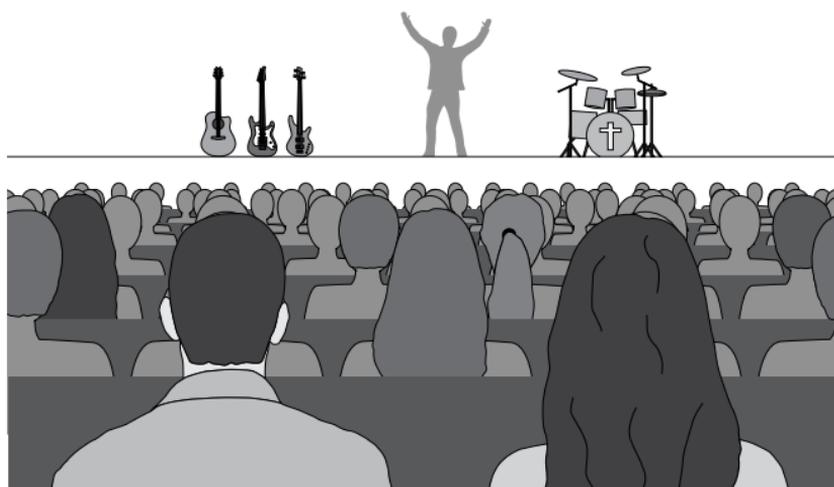
"Thank you, God, for your awesome power. There is no one like you!" The large sanctuary

resounded with exclamations of praise while a lone guitar strummed softly in the background.

“Lord, help us to see your glory. You are so good to us. Father, we aren’t worthy, but make us worthy in the name of Jesus. Amen.” The crowd settled back into their seats, and Jeremy’s hand reached over for Alicia’s as they shared a smile. They knew God was in control and leading them in their Christian walk.

Jeremy and Alicia hadn’t always attended

Welcome to
**Lakeside Believers
Fellowship**



Lakeside. As he listened to Pastor Mike, Jeremy's mind reviewed the past few years. So much had happened since high school graduation. His family had a history of faithful service to their country, so enlisting in the armed services had seemed the next logical step. But looking back, Jeremy knew he had joined for a deeper reason. He had wanted to be a part of something larger than himself, something providing solutions to the world's problems.

The television and newspapers were constantly spewing out a flood of unsettling information. Everywhere he looked there was discord and conflict—corporations taking advantage of the worker, the rich abusing the poor, and foreign governments causing starvation and poverty for their own selfish political gain. So much was wrong, and he had wanted to help make things right.

And then there were those radical Muslims. The sight of men torturing innocent people, proudly sending videos of their horrific acts around the globe and assuming they were doing the will of Allah, was too much. Something had to be done! These deranged people needed to be stopped, and who else could put an end to this nonsense but the U.S. military? So for four years Jeremy had been

a part of the U.S. Army, two of those years serving with the Special Forces in the Middle East.

He had gone assuming the United States was right and had the answers, but he returned home with major questions. Can you force men to change? Will more bombs and guns really create world peace? Jeremy had enlisted believing America had been blessed by God, was driven by a higher set of morals, and had a divine responsibility to assist the downtrodden. But his time in the service and interaction with other cultures had shown him that Americans were very much like the rest of the world.

After returning home from the military and marrying Alicia, his high school sweetheart, Jeremy's life had spun out of control. National superiority, the great truth he had leaned on, had let him down, and Alicia had looked on with dismay as Jeremy struggled. She watched him turn to alcohol and finally drugs, attempting to relieve his disillusionment. For months she feared for his sanity and worried that he might take his own life. And then someone had invited them to Lakeside Believers Fellowship.

Jeremy had grown up assuming he was a Christian, but had never actually made a public

confession of Christ. He had shied away from people who seemed “too spiritual,” but now, dependent on drugs and alcohol, he felt there was little to lose.

The people at Lakeside had been very friendly, and Jeremy knew he would never forget the love and acceptance he had felt from this church during that dark time in his life. They had reached out to him with open arms, and it had been just what he needed.

Lakeside was a large church with many programs, one of which ministered to individuals struggling with substance abuse. Jeremy had always had an interest in history, and one of the leaders had helped him enroll in a local university. Now, with just one more year of schooling and good prospects for employment as a history teacher, Jeremy and Alicia felt that the Lord had brought them here. They made a public confession of Christ, became active in a midweek Bible study, and began pouring their lives into Lakeside Believers Fellowship. The people and preaching were great, the music program second to none. As Jeremy turned his mind back toward Pastor Mike’s message, it seemed his life was finally back on track.

