



Loving Wake-Up Calls from Jesus to Us By Karen Sue Nyquist

- 1. Does God want everyone to be saved and go to heaven?** - “The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). To warn people, God said, “I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending *them*, saying, ‘Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings’ ... But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me” (Jeremiah 35:15). Jeremiah, a priest and prophet, foretold of God’s coming judgment because the people continued in their sins instead of repenting and turning away from them (Jeremiah 7). (Sins are things that we think, say, and do that are bad or wrong.) The good news (the gospel) for us is, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (*Jesus*), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus’ death paid for our sins. Now, we can repent of our sins and turn away from them. Then God will forgive our sins through our faith in Jesus! (Colossians 1:13-14). Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am (*in heaven*), *there* you may be also” (John 14:2-3).
- 2. Jesus wants people to be saved.** - “Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). The last time Jesus approached Jerusalem, He actually wept over the city knowing that its judgment was coming soon (Luke 19:41). On one occasion, in desperation, Jesus warns them, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate” (Matthew 23:37-38). **He wanted them to wake up and realize the serious situation they were in.** They refused to turn to God and repent of their sins. Later, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, with 1.1 million dying in 70 AD. Most of those people died, still in their unforgiven sins.
- 3. When do we need a wake-up call?** - Many of us are spiritually asleep. We may not realize that we are sinners, or we do and don’t care, or we do and don’t know what to do about it; so we postpone doing anything and “go back to sleep.” We need a wake-up call. When **someone really loves us they’ll keep calling us**, even when we don’t like it and we might even get angry at them. But our eternal souls are in danger! We have to wake up! Because Jesus loves us so much, He warns us of the negative consequences if we don’t wake up, repent of our sins, and turn to God. Then God can save us and forgive our sins. We must be ready in time for Jesus’ return or for our own death. Our deaths can happen unexpectedly, in an accident, a fire, or a heart attack. Today, Jesus’ Spirit continues to convict us of wrong and calls us unto Himself. Will we turn to Him, ignore Him, or reject Him?
- 4. When did Jesus give “wake-up” calls?** - Jesus gave them throughout His ministry. When Jesus prophesied the destruction of the temple, His disciples asked, “**What will be the sign of Your coming** and the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3). First, Jesus described the signs of things that will be happening before He returns in Matthew 24:3-35. (Read this passage, these signs are happening all around us!) Next, Jesus told parables as wake-up calls, explaining who would be taken to heaven and who would be left behind and experience the Great Tribulation, which will be the worst time of God’s judgment for the whole earth. **Jesus wants us to pay attention to these warnings, these wake-up calls.**
- 5. No one knows the day or hour when Jesus will come to take some to heaven.** - Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only ... Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two *women will be* grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour **your Lord** is coming ... Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man (*Jesus*) is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:36-44). **Only those who are ready will go to heaven.** Ask yourself, “Am I ready for Jesus’ return? Is He my Lord? If I die, will I be ready to go to heaven?” How do we get ready? Keep on reading.
- 6. Jesus’ wake-up call, “You must be born again.”** - John 3:1-7 - “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ... Jesus told Nicodemus, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (*kingdom of Heaven*). ... Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again**’ ” (John



3:1-3, 5-7). Jesus is telling Nicodemus that we have to receive the Holy Spirit, to be born again spiritually, to be saved, and to have a new life. The Bible says **we are saved through faith in Jesus** (Acts 16:31) because His death paid for our sins. **Then with the Holy Spirit inside us, we change and become better people, full of good works.**

7. Who will be taken to heaven and who'll be left behind? - Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like ..." then He told these parables, more of His wake-up calls:

a. The Parable of The Faithful and The Evil Servants - Matthew 24:45-51 - Some people who serve God are doing what is right, other servants of God are knowingly doing what is wrong, they're sinning, but are thinking they can get away with it. **Only those servants of God who have repented of their sins, who are doing what's right in God's eyes, will go to heaven.** God tells us what is right in the Bible. Ask yourself, "Am I serving God? Have I repented of my sins? Am I doing what God says is right?" How do we become God's servants? Through Jesus! "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) except through Me'" (John 14:6).

b. The Parable of The 5 Wise and 5 Foolish Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13 - In this parable, being a virgin represents a person who is living a "good" life. When the groom, (Jesus) came, He let the 5 wise virgins into heaven, but He told the 5 foolish virgins, "I do not know you" and would not let them enter. Those who were wise had "oil in their lamps" which means they had His Holy Spirit. They had a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior and He knew them. Those who were foolish no longer had "oil in their lamps," His Spirit, and did not have a relationship with Jesus. They may have been trusting in their parent's relationship with Jesus, or in their church membership, or in another religion, or in their own "righteousness." At one point, Jesus says, "No longer do I call you servants, ... but I have called you friends" (John 15:15). **Only those who have His Holy Spirit and a relationship with Jesus will go to heaven.** Ask yourself, "Do I have a relationship with Jesus as my Lord and Savior? Do I have His Spirit? Does He know me as a friend?" How do we get to know Him? First, we repent of our sins and receive Him as our Lord and Savior, then His Spirit will enter us (Acts 2:38). From then on we obey Jesus, spending time with Him in prayer and worship, becoming friends. What if we mess up and sin again? Oh, we will, but then "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Jesus also wants us to shine like a lamp, to be a light in this world (Matthew 5:14).

c. The Parable of Using God's Money - Matthew 25:14-30 - God gives us all skills, talents, time, money, and possessions. As His stewards, He expects us to use some of that for His purposes: 1) for saving other people, 2) for supporting His church's work, 3) for giving to good causes, 4) for helping others in need (Matthew 25:31-46). **Only those who do use what they have for God's purposes, will He reward here on earth and in heaven.** Jesus will say, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). To those who don't use what they have for God's purposes and don't help others in need, Jesus will respond, "'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment (*hell*), but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:45-46). Ask yourself, "Am I using what God has given me for His purposes?" When we have His Holy Spirit inside of us, He'll lead us to do right, we just need to ask Him then obey.

8. Are you ready to accept Jesus? If so here is a suggested prayer: "Jesus, thank You for Your wake-up calls. I am ready to repent of my sins and confess You as my Lord and Savior. Please, forgive my sins, help me to turn away from them, and do what is right. Please, give me Your Holy Spirit. I want to be a servant of God, and get to know You Jesus as a friend. God, You can use me for Your purposes. Thank You for saving me. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Name _____ Date _____

Now Jesus will start revealing Himself even more to you. To steadily improve your relationship, spend time with Him. Start talking (praying) to Him. Read His book, the Bible. Go to a good church where you feel God's presence and they preach the Bible. There you can get baptized, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and can fellowship with other believers. We learn much about God from each other. You are invited to visit us!

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