

AHF Core Teaching - 50 Jesus Commands – Introduction

**“Go and make disciples of all nations,
TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS
I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.” Matthew 28**

Jesus saw his message of love and reconciliation as a word that should touch nations. He instructed his followers to teach the curriculum He taught them. Evidently the disciples did so because religious leaders complained to the Apostles “you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine.”

What did these early followers of Jesus do that so impacted their culture?

1. They continued to teach and practice Jesus’ core curriculum - the 50 commands of Christ.
2. They lived as a community of genuine friends, built upon the practice of the presence of God made manifest in their lifestyle of fellowship, prayer, and mutual affection.

They continued as a ‘band of brothers’ and taught others to do likewise, meeting from house to house and in the Temple.

As a result the first century followers of Jesus experienced and demonstrated extraordinary love, generosity, joy and powerful answers to prayer. This is what happens when the teachings of Jesus fill a city. There are incredible promises given to those who practice the 50 commands.

Jesus promises 9 special rewards for keeping the commands:

1. God will reveal Himself to you. John 14:21
2. God will dwell in you. John 14:23
3. Christ will be your friend. John 15:14
4. You will receive Gods love. John 15:10
5. You will genuinely love others. 1 John 5:2
6. Your prayers will be answered. 1 John 3:22

7. You will have true joy. John 15:11

8. You will have peace. John 16:33

9. You will be purified. John 17:17

Is it possible that the cultural drift in nations such as the United States could be due to a focus on making converts and church members and not disciples?

These 50 teachings of Christ have the power to transform a culture or a nation.

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follower of Jesus was hired by the United Nations to train a group of Scientists and

PhD's from 20 countries whose special expertise involved oceanic studies. The group had been meeting at a University in Halifax, Nova Scotia for several weeks and this was to be their final class. They wanted the teacher to help them be more effective leaders, communicators and fund raisers in their field. He was told not to bring any theology into the training since many were from diverse countries: Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Communist, etc. This particular man was more accustomed to quoting freely from the Scripture and was concerned if he could teach and be relevant to the needs of the U.N. if his faith was not welcome. Upon reflection, it occurred to him that much of Jesus teaching is universal. He observed that the first 25 commands can be taught and practiced by anyone, so he reworked his training and his language so that the powerful ideas he learned as a disciple could be applied to that diverse group of scientists without them knowing the Scriptural source. The students rated it the most effective class they had ever taken! He learned a powerful lesson- followers of Jesus can be covert and overt! If overt, you can personally evangelise an individual and afterward disciple them. However, when dealing with a nation, an institute, corporation or government especially one that does not adhere to the Bible, you disciple the

nation first by teaching a new and superior way of getting results and then use the platform of credibility provided through your success to show more fully the principles of faith that produce those results. By teaching solutions to problems that showcase a new way of thinking, your 'good works' will build you a platform to share more fully about your personal beliefs and your faith. Imagine what the world would be like if the sons and daughters of world leaders were taught the relevance of Jesus' sayings on leadership? They would learn to understand rather than react to differences, learn to see God's handiwork in diversity, and learn how to influence others through humility and flexibility rather than intimidation or manipulation. This is the global teaching assignment present day disciples must engage. The sayings of Jesus can build common ground for peace when all other religious and political philosophies fail.

Leaders in Colombia understand this. For many years the cocaine drug lords have had more money and better equipment than the national army! The United States assisted Colombia by providing eight Black Hawk helicopters to balance the military disparity of weapons. While this helped, it did not stop the seemingly invincible power of bribery and corruption that followed the money trail. A handful of followers of Jesus decided to do something and began presenting the wisdom of God's words as part of a leadership development program. They started where nobody wanted to go - *the prison system*. This was where all could see how powerful the cartel was, as criminals were treated like holiday guests with special rooms, meals and entertainment. Recent feedback on the results of this program are powerful! When presented as "*Leadership Principles*" the teachings of Scripture have been able to thwart the powers of the mighty drug cartel of Colombia and initiate the transformation of all their prisons- 61,000 inmates and 8000 guards. The same results have been achieved in the judicial system of Guatemala. Now 200,000 soldiers in Colombia and 100,000 civil servants in Guatemala are experiencing the transformational power of Jesus teaching. Indeed, wherever there is a problem of global proportions, there is a solution for those willing to apply principles of faith and wisdom. The AIDS crisis in Uganda nearly wiped out a country and destabilized an entire region of Africa. The solution came from a dialogue between the President and men of faith. They worked together to find the keys in Jesus' teaching and

discovered that, when applied, the call to purity, self control, faithfulness and wisdom not only reduced the plague from 30% to 5% in 3 years, but helped revitalize the national economy! What about the current conflict in the Middle East? Is there a role for 21st century people of faith and the sayings of Jesus? **Yes!** Jesus is respected as a true Prophet in the Qur'an. What would happen if the sayings of Jesus were made the centerpiece for dialogue in centers of Islamic influence? The links that connect Jesus and Islam are much deeper, more complex and intricately woven than most would expect. He is respectfully referred to as 'Isa bin Maryam' or Jesus son of Mary. According to the Holy Quran, Isa bin Maryam is a prophet like Mohammed, Moses and David. While Muslims emphasize that Isa was only a prophet, Islamic scriptures paint a different picture. The Quran acknowledges Jesus' divine birth, earthly miracles, messianic mission, ascension to heaven, divine return, victory over the anti-Christ (al-Dajjal), and eventual global theocracy. Eleven times Isa bears the title "Messiah," and his mother, Virgin Mary, is the only woman mentioned in the Quran. The Quran proclaims Isa to be sinless and holy. Spread over fifteen different Suras (chapters), Isa is spoken of as "the Word of God," "the Spirit of God" and a "Sign of God." Indeed, there are many differences between Islam and Christianity, but there are equally great differences between Christians and Hindu's, Buddhist and Communists. The vast majority of 1.3 billion Muslims are not extremists. The common ground of all three faiths in Abraham (Hebrew, Islam and Christianity) should be more than enough to build a platform for peace. It is the devil who desires war and destruction. God blessed Ishmael and told him there would be kings coming out of his lineage. Those kings need to meet kingdom ambassadors. Now, more than ever, we need those who follow Jesus to step into the gap and serve nations by teaching solutions to problems through the commandments of Christ. Truly, if Jesus is lifted up, he will draw all men unto him.

I have intentionally described these first 25 commands in terminology I would use in teaching Jesus commands as principles that apply to any nation or people. You could no doubt find other ways to render the meaning, application or interpretation of the same scripture.