



Text: Matthew 6:19-24
 Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The text on this page simply asks the question, "Where is your heart?" Each coin was individually retouched to hide a specific currency.



Text: Matthew 6:25-32
 Even the pattern and color in the feathers of a simple sparrow show a remarkable work of art. If God feeds and cares for them, isn't it logical that he will look after us, being made in his image? The text simply says, "Look at the birds of the air."



Text: Matthew 6:33-34
 Life is like a maze in which we make choices everyday. The only way to consistently make the right choice and move toward the light is by seeking first God's kingdom. These are the words written at the entrance of the maze.



Text: Matthew 7:1-6
 Judges' gavels are universally understood. Here the gavel and its base provide the framework for the text, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged."



Text: Matthew 7:7-12
 In Matthew 7:7 Jesus said, "Knock and the door will be opened to you." Notice that this door lacks a doorknob. It must be opened from the other side. This is a picture of prayer. The brass plate simply says, "Knock."



Text: Matthew 7:13-14
 In Matthew 7:13 Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate." The most commonly used Arabic Bible uses the word "door." The sign is a typical Cairo street sign. Its color, layout and lettering style is easily recognized by anyone living in the city.



Text: Matthew 7:15-20
 This scene could be found in any grocery store or produce market. Instead of a price, the fruit-seller has written, "By their fruit you will know them." Notice that there is both good and bad fruit!



Text: Matthew 7:21-23
 In Matthew 7:21 Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven." This spiral staircase leads to a blazing fire below. The text is from verse 23, where Jesus said, "Away from me, you evildoers!"



Text: Matthew 7:24-27
 In the final part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the parable of those who built on foundations of sand and rock. The latter are those who hear his words and put them into practice. The text engraved into the stone says, "A foundation on the rock."



Text: Matthew 7:28-29
 At the close of Jesus' sermon, Matthew wrote that "the crowds were amazed at his teaching." That is what is written between the outstretched hands of this listener. May we be the same!

كلمات خيّرت العالم

تعاليم السيد المسيح

INTRODUCTION (TRANSLATION)

Almost two thousand year ago, Jesus began his ministry in Palestine. He moved among the people teaching and healing. They brought him their sick, their lame, and the mentally ill. He taught deep spiritual truths in simple and clear words.

Near the city of Capernaum, a multitude came to hear him teach on a hillside. That's where he spoke the famous words that were later called "The Sermon on the Mount."

Jesus spoke to those who were tired, confused, and burdened with inherited rituals and strict teachings taught by the elders – who considered themselves protectors of the law. Jesus freed them from dry interpretations and directed them to the enlightened obedience of the heart which God desires.

Perhaps some of them were afraid he would be harsh and rebuke them, as did other preachers. Instead, he started with many "blessings." Some may have thought he would tear down the law and replace it with his own commandments; that he would destroy their culture to build his own kingdom. Instead, he said that He was not here to destroy, but to build; not here to tear down, but to build upon. His message was a true message of love, light and completeness.

People were amazed at his teachings, as they were with his life and miracles. We invite the reader to meditate quietly on these words of Jesus.

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Text: Matthew 5:1-12
How does one depict the reward awaiting the faithful? Several concepts were produced, but in the end this stylized heaven-scape was chosen. It leaves the nature of this reward to the imagination of the reader. The text says, "Great is your reward in heaven."



Text: Matthew 5:38-42
This wooden bowl held in dirt-stained hands becomes the frame for the text, which says, "Give to the one who asks you."



Text: Matthew 5:13-16
One of the wonderful aspects of Arabic calligraphy is that the letterforms can be inter-woven by a skilled calligrapher into various shapes. Here the text is from Matthew 5:14, which says, "You are the light of the world," It forms the flame of a candle.



Text: Matthew 5:43-48
When someone becomes our enemy, they put up a barrier represented by the barbed wire. The butterfly represents love and reconciliation. The text, with light streaming behind it, says, "Love your enemies."



Text: Matthew 5:17-20
In reference to the Mosaic Law and the writings of the prophets, Jesus said that he did "not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Those words are written here. In a sense he was like the last piece in a puzzle, bringing to completion what had been promised.



Text: Matthew 6:1-4
The words "When you give to the poor, do not announce it with trumpets like the hypocrites" streams like the sounds coming from a trumpet.



Text: Matthew 5:20-26
In this image, broken relationships are represented by cracks in the wall. The text, from Matthew 5:24, says, "Be reconciled." Graffiti first appeared in Cairo surrounding the January 2011 revolution. We wanted to include some in the book.



Text: Matthew 6:5-8
The words "Close the door" are fit into the light rays peeking through as the door to the prayer closet quietly closes.



Text: Matthew 5:27-32
In Matthew 5:28 Jesus said, "Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Lust is like a snake in the heart waiting to come out. The text simply says, "Adultery."



Text: Matthew 6:9-15
While other pages in this book show graffiti, puzzles, and various objects, this one must show the highest dignity and solemnity inherent in the words found in the Lord's prayer, "Holy is your name."



Text: Matthew 5:33-37
In Matthew 5:37 Jesus said, "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'" This image contrasts many of the expressions Egyptians use to convince others they mean what they've said, against a simple "Yes, Yes, No, No."



Text: Matthew 6:16-18
In Matthew 6:17 Jesus said, "But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting..." Embossed in the soap are the words, "Wash your face."