

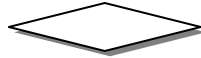
# So Close! ...And Yet So Far?



## The Teachings Of Jesus In Dialogue With Other Beliefs

### Part 3: "Why Are You Always Smiling?"

#### BUDDHISM



### Introduction – The Value Of A Pure & Simple Life

Matthew 6:25-34

### Beginnings & Beliefs

i) Siddharta Gautama was the \_\_\_\_\_ Buddha.

"Buddha" = *the* \_\_\_\_\_ *one*.

ii) Similarities with Hinduism...

- a. *Karma* =
- b. *Samsara* =
- c. *Maya* =

iii) Reforms from Hinduism...

- a. Rejected the caste system.
- b. *An-atman* = The doctrine of "\_\_\_\_ self"
- c. *Dharmas* = The \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
- d. *Nirvana* = \_\_\_\_\_ into the impersonal all.

iv) The Four Noble Truths...

- Life is \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (*Attachment*) is what leads to suffering.
- We can illuminate all suffering by \_\_\_\_\_ all desire.
- This is achieved through the Noble Eightfold Path...

v) The Noble Eightfold Path....

#### *Wisdom*

- Right Knowledge (view of life)
- Right Attitude (intention to achieve enlightenment)

#### *Ethics*

- Right Speech (saying all that is and only what is required)
- Right Action (doing all that is and only what is required)
- Right Occupation (being a monk)

#### *Discipline*

- Right Effort (directing one's energy right)
- Right Mindfulness (meditation)
- Right Composure (maintaining continuous focus)

vi) Major Movements of Buddhism...

- a. Theravada Buddhism ("the teaching of the elders")...
  - Emphasis on salvation of \_\_\_\_\_ (*bikhus*).
  - Laypeople assist them in the hope of returning with better \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Mahayana Buddhism ("the greater vehicle")...
  - Emphasis on the Buddha nature within \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Zen Buddhism...
  - Influenced by Taoism.
  - Focus is not meditation and direct \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
  - Uses the *koan* to frustrate logic and language.

vii) Hints of grace – the Bodhisattvas...

## **What Can We Learn From Buddhism?**

- i) Truth should be \_\_\_\_\_, not just taught.

**Philippians 4:8-9**

- ii) The \_\_\_\_\_ way is wise.

**Ecclesiastes 7:18**

- iii) The Middle Path is not an excuse for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 9:57-62**

**Philippians 2:12-13**

- iv) Our problem is attachment to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 6:25-34; John 6:27-29**

- v) Some distinctions should be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Galatians 3:28**

- vi) Life is to be appreciated, not \_\_\_\_\_. (Zen)

**Psalms 1:2; 63:6; 119:15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 101-102, 148; Joshua 1:7-8**

**Warning: Luke 11:24-26**

## **What Can Buddhists Learn From Jesus?**

- i) Life is to be \_\_\_\_\_, not escaped. (**John 10:10**)

- ii) God is \_\_\_\_\_, and so are you. (**1 John 4:8, 16**)

- iii) The secret to contentment is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(**Philippians 4:11-13**)

- iv) Salvation is not about absorption, but \_\_\_\_\_.  
(**2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Colossians 1:21-23**)

- v) The first step to reconciliation is receiving \_\_\_\_\_.  
(**1 John 1:9**)

- vi) Forgiveness, reconciliation, salvation are all a \_\_\_\_\_  
to be received, not a goal to be attained.  
(**Romans 6:23**)

## **Conclusion – What Do You Desire?**

**Matthew 5:6**

### **HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...**

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, share what aspect of Buddhism you are  
a) most attracted to? b) most 'turned off' by?
2. To some extent in the Buddhist scriptures, like the Hindu scriptures, the  
wisdom and insight found within is more important than historical facts or  
actual events. Compare this to **Matthew 11:2-5; Luke 1:1-4; & 2 Peter  
1:16**. a) How do the Christian Scriptures claim to be different? b) How can  
this difference make the Christian faith more open to being "tested" or  
scrutinized than some other religions? (**1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**.) c) To  
what extent have you sincerely tested or investigated the truth or falsehood  
of the Bible?
3. Buddhists teach that our spiritual dilemma is, at least in part, our attachment  
to the things of this life. Jesus would agree. Read **Matthew 6:25-34 &  
John 6:27-29**. a) Of these passages, what is your one favourite verse?  
Why? b) What are you attached to in life that you know you should let go  
of? c) What are some practical ways we can obey **Matthew 6:33**? d) What  
is one thing you can commit to doing this week to help yourself grow in this  
area? Close by praying for each other about this matter.