

When You Don't *FEEL* close to God

The Daily Invitations & Hands-on Encounters You Cannot MISS

Eye's on the Sky

(Ezekiel's Eastern Gate Vision – Ezk 43:1-4)

1. Years of time have come and gone
Since I first heard it told
How Jesus would come again some day
If back then it seemed so real
Then I just can't help but feel
How much closer His coming is today

Refrain

Signs of the times are everywhere
There's a brand new feeling in the air
Keep your eyes upon the eastern sky
Lift up your head redemption draweth nigh

2. Wars and strife on every hand
And violence fills the land
Still some people doubt He'll ever come again
But the Word of God is true
He'll redeem His chosen few
Don't lose hope soon Christ Jesus will descend

We're RIGHT to LONG for His return:

2 Timothy 4:8 & 2 Peter 3:12

The Good Samaritan Is the KEY

Luke 10:30–37 (this is a window or a picture of how the Jews missed Him)
(they were busy with religion & the law/rules but neglecting application)
Good at the Vertical / but ignoring the Horizontal

How the Jews missed Jesus –

Even though they prayed the Shema everyday ...

Remind of the Shema: (NT style)

Deut 6:4 & Luke 10:25-28,;Mt 22:34-40; Mk 12:28-31

QUESTION:

Where did Jesus get the Love your Neighbor part?

Leviticus 19:

Leviticus 19:18 (niv)

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people,
but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.



What Is Leviticus 19 Doing?

Leviticus 19 is clarifying the LAW

It begins:

“Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.” (*Leviticus 19:2 kjv*)

How Leviticus 19 Connects to the Ten Commandments as well as the Shema

10 Commands in Exodus 20:1-17 & again in Deuteronomy 5:6–21

Commandments 1–4 (Love GOD)

No idols (v.4) → Commandments 1 & 2

Proper sacrifice (v.5–8) → relates to worship

Reverence for sanctuary (v.30) → Commandment 4 themes

These are clearly expansions of the “vertical” commands.

Commandments 5–10 (Love Neighbor)

Leviticus 19 includes:

- Honor parents (v.3) → Commandment 5
- Do not steal (v.11) → Commandment 8
- Do not lie (v.11) → Commandment 9
- Do not swear falsely (v.12) → Commandment 3 & 9
- Do not defraud workers (v.13) → Commandment 8
- Do not hate your brother (v.17) → deeper layer of Commandment 6
- Do not avenge (v.18) → deeper layer of Commandment 6

And then:

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (*Leviticus 19:18 kjv*)

This is not an “extra” law.

It's the summary of Commandments 5–10.

Exactly what JESUS later says in

Matthew 22:39-40 (NIV)

39 **And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**

40 **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

HOW do WE Miss JESUS?

We're looking for Him in the CLOUDS & not in our neighbor.
Not in EACH OTHER...

Vision of His feet in Heaven.

I'm looking forward to hugging His feet
But ignoring the feet before me right now...

Serving the LEAST

Matthew 25:40 (kjv)

“**Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren,
ye have done it unto me.**”

Who is the Samaritan in your community?

Serve those Nearest YOU

Your spouse
Your neighbor (physically and metaphorically)

What to DO?

If closeness to GOD is found in loving our neighbor...
then the question/the PRAYER
becomes: **who needs love from me this week?**

Conversation starters:

Question:
Who in my daily life might GOD be inviting me
to notice more — someone I may have
overlooked, avoided, or assumed someone else
would help?

What usually keeps us from serving or
loving people the way JESUS described —
busyness, fear, pride, resentment, or
something else?

What is one simple act of love or service I could do this week that would reflect
the heart of JESUS?

Pray:

*“GOD, show us/me where You are waiting for us/me this week - and give
us/me the courage to love the people You place in front of us.”*

