

AXIS MUNDI
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BIGGER
BRIGHTER
TOGETHER

DREAM
GIVE
BELONG

FAITH
FAMILY
HEALTH
WEALTH
INFLUENCE
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

LESS
NOISE
A DEEPER
JESUS

The story of Jesus

The story of Jesus

And he said it *lingua lingua* the present of the verb
that said you said in plural the present of saying
but because the tongue I think the present is even
each tongue has that tongue it did not talk but did
signification on meaning the example is you could see
that the speaking did not but the meaning could be
found in the words so that you could see a thing
and it seems it is to know how the people have
that even better speaking I thought that that word
they used explained the word which said that thing.
And I have said more than I could say and could say

And it came to pass in those days,
that Jesus went about in that robe
of fine flaxen, bound this time a thirtie
about his neck, and the hundred.
Happened shewd the big chides.
And many used the horn of force.
Looke on him that he might
pleaseth him that he might
be his king, or be his king
As yet he was in that way
Suffering, for that he was
Saw their faces, and they
Died of their hearts, and they
Followed it.

Same Bible A Different World

YOU
BELONG
HERE

YOU
BELONG
HERE

**GIVE
INVEST
BUILD
EXPAND**

**SAME
JESUS
BIGGER
THINGS**

EXPECT A
MIRACLE

Experience the Power of God
in Your Everyday Life

JASON WHITMORE

FAITH

SUCCESS

HEALING

PURPOSE

FINANCIAL FREEDOM

GOD'S BEST FOR YOU

EXPECT A
MIRACLE

JASON M. MURPHY

GOOD
DOGS
BRIGHTER
PEOPLE
HOUSTON



Gordon Atkinson





This whole thing with Joyce at the dog park came at a very inconvenient time, I must say. I had recently returned to writing, my life energy having blossomed after years of diminishment. Specifically, I was looking forward to telling you about my soft, slow fall into Buddhism, which was like finding myself in my lover's arms after years of absence.

Then little miss thing shows up at my dog park, asking about Jesus, and I'm not even IN that religion anymore!

I would've been fine and dandy letting her learn about Jesus from someone else. Just not that guy. Not that guy and not that church. He's a liar and an antichrist. It won't do.

Jesus and Joyce deserve better.



Okay. I need to stop for a moment.

I'm going to tell you something rather private from my inner world. My only defense for speaking this inner truth aloud, this truth that was my secret to hold for the rest of my life, is that it will help you understand my reaction to Joyce.

Two years ago, during a sad and lonely season, I was living at the Wizard Academy in Austin, where I had a job as after hours security. While I was there I had a mystical experience. It was a voice within me, sort of like what happens when I'm writing. But this voice was so clearly NOT me that it felt exactly like I was talking to another person.



And that person was Jesus. Yeah, THE Jesus.

Later I decided it either really WAS Jesus...somehow...or the life of Jesus has so powerfully impacted my unconscious that I manifested this experience in some outburst of creative inspiration.

Either way, what Jesus asked of me was so simple, I said yes.

He said, If someone ever asks about me, I want you to talk to them. You don't have to be a preacher anymore, and I love the whole Buddhist thing you're into; it's adorable. Merton says hello, by the way.





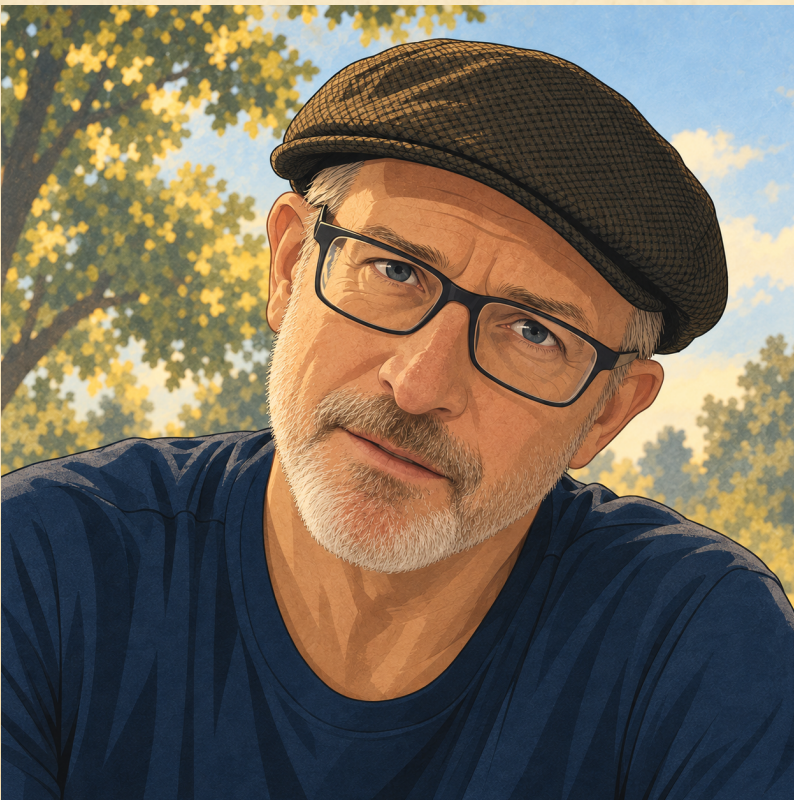
Just, if someone ever asks, tell them the truth about me.

That seemed easy enough, and I responded enthusiastically.

Is that all? No problem, if someone ASKS. But you do realize no one talks to me very much anymore, right? I live in two rooms at the Wizard Academy. I'm the Tower Guard. I clean the kitchen, serve food, set up chairs at the chapel, and do basic security. It is highly unlikely anyone will EVER ask me about you, but sure.

If someone asks me about you, I'll tell them your story.

So now you know. Now you know why I could not turn away from Joyce in that moment. I made a promise two years ago that I had honestly forgotten about. I'm an older man who could die tomorrow and it would be fine. I've done what I was meant to



do in this life I think. Doesn't mean I won't do a helluva lot more but I don't have to. She is a young soul with her life's work still ahead of her.

Anyway, I had no choice. You can see that, right?

So, I'm going to trust you with that story from my inner world and from my heart. I'm not sure how I interpret the source of my ecstatic wisdom, but the message is all that matters to me. I believe in that moment some of the remaining life energy that originated within the human being who was once Jesus was strong enough within me to manifest its own speech and consciousness for a brief moment. I mean, I could write up the whole

thing in Jung-speak if you wanted me to. It would sound real smart too. I'm good at sounding like a smart little Jungster.

Or maybe a simpler answer will do. Maybe Jesus came back from the dead and had a little tête-à-tête with his boy Gordo from back in the day. He does have a reputation for doing this kind of thing you know.

Doesn't matter though because either way...

I'm 100% in on the Joyce thing.



Here's what I said to her that day:

Joyce, by some strange twist of Fate, you found yourself in the dog park today with a Jesus scholar. I've studied the man extensively.

Everything we know about Jesus is in the New Testament, which was written in ancient Greek. I wanted to know about Jesus so badly, I studied that language in college and later in seminary. I've translated parts of every book in the New Testament.*

I know what Jesus taught, and what he said. I know what he believed, and I know how he thought we should live.

And I have GOOD NEWS for you. There exists within the book of Matthew, a four-page summary of



* See last page for details

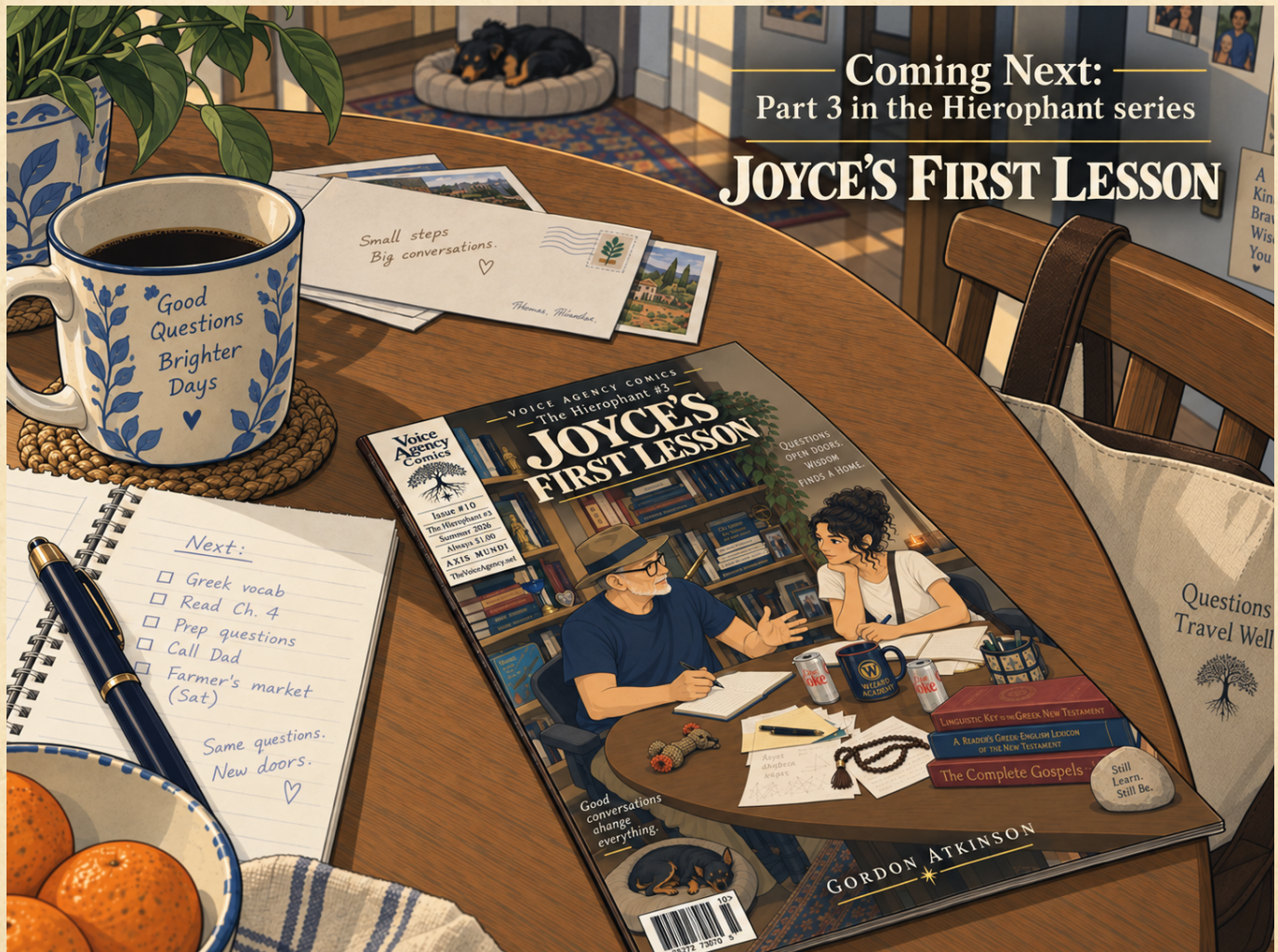
the teachings of Jesus, written by someone who knew him.

It's four pages. We can read them together from the original Greek. In fact, if we study together, I'll make a translation of these four pages just for you.

When we're done, you will KNOW who Jesus was. I promise you that. And no one will be able to lie to you about Jesus again, and get away with it.

I made her an offer she couldn't refuse.

And she did not refuse it.



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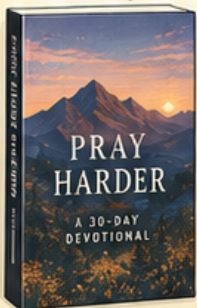
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- ☐ I want to be on your catalog mailing list!
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- ☐ I already own too much of this stuff, but send it anyway!

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- ☐ Coffee-Dependent Christian
- ☐ Small Group Survivor
- ☐ Frequent Christian-Store Shopper
- ☐ Professional Encourager
- ☐ I just really like mugs

Circle one:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Saved | Sort of | Still Working on It |
| Team Coffee | Team Tea | Both |
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*Results may vary. But we needed a new building.

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Check all that apply:

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- ☐ Prophecy hotline / paid word
- ☐ VIP donor pressure
- ☐ Debt-cancellation offering
- ☐ Prosperity manipulation
- ☐ Church-growth branding pressure
- ☐ Spiritual intimidation
- ☐ Other: _____

Name (optional): _____

Email (optional): _____

Church / Ministry: _____

What happened? _____

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HOW IS THIS EVEN LEGAL?

I THOUGHT THEY WERE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS?

SAME CON DIFFERENT PULPIT.

VOICE AGENCY COMICS



A First Principle Worth Having: Always Know Where Your Teacher Received Their Wisdom

My father was a scholarly Southern Baptist pastor who taught Old and New Testament at the University of Texas in El Paso in the 1960s. I was raised with the scriptures, rather like a rabbi's son. I knew all the Bible stories. I was a preacher/professor's kid, so the Bible stories were my stories. I wasn't allowed to read comic books, so the Bible characters were my superheroes.

Because of this, by the time I left home for college in 1980, I was already preparing for a PhD in New Testament. My dream was to be a professor and introduce young people to the life and teachings of Jesus. Being a student was my calling, and I was serious about it. Anything less than an A was a failure for me.

I received a Bachelor of Arts in 1984, having studied Ancient Greek, Philosophy, Theology, and Biblical Studies. I followed that with a seminary degree four years later, where I continued my language work. I translated the Gospel of Mark, Galatians, and a major section of Matthew while in seminary. I began a PhD at Baylor in 1991, but my life took an unexpected turn, and I had to step away from school for what I thought would be one year.

It didn't turn out that way. Another life called, and I never went back for the degree. I never taught college students about Jesus. I ended up being the pastor of a quirky little church in San Antonio, where I brought the highest levels of scholarship I could to my preaching, teaching, and writing. I never once in twenty years preached from a passage in the New Testament that I didn't translate myself.

I served that one church for twenty years, and then I left the ministry. Later, I left the practice of Christianity altogether.

That is my story and my résumé. I can show you what Jesus said, thought, believed, and hoped for. And I think you can tell from my story that I will enjoy doing so. It scratches a very old itch of mine.

Gordon Atkinson

