**Living the Teachings of Jesus in Our World**

**The teachings of Jesus** fall roughly into two categories: the spiritual and the practical. Many of the practical teachings are enumerated in the *Gospel of Matthew* as well as in the *Gospels of Mark and Luke*, and they provide instruction on how to live our lives.

**From the Gospel of Matthew**

(Revised Standard Version)

5-28 But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

5-32 But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

5-34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

5-39 But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil.

5-42 Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you.

5-44 But I say to you, Love your enemies...

6-1 Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them...

6-6 But when you pray, go into your room and pray to your Father who is in secret...

6-7 And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do...

6-19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...

7-1 Judge not, that you be not judged.

**Tolstoy's Summary**

(from *The Gospel in Brief*)

1. Do not be angry, but be at peace with all men.

2. Do not seek delight in sexual gratification.

3. Do not swear anything to anyone.

4. Do not oppose evil, do not judge, and do not go to law.

5. Do not make any distinction among men as to nationality, and love strangers like your own people.

**Queries**

* Is it possible in our human society to live our lives fully in accordance with the teachings of Jesus?
* If it is not possible, or if it is inordinately difficult to live as Jesus directs, which teachings would be most important to follow?
* Which of the teachings of Jesus resonate most fully with you?

**References**

*The Holy Bible* - King James Version

*The Holy Bible* - Revised Standard Version

*The Dartmouth Bible*

*The Gospel in Brief* - Leo Tolstoy

*The English Bible* - A Norton Critical Edition