

# Hello



“And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.”~ Matthew 28:9

Today we take a look at one of the most common words in the English language, hello. A very popular song by the singer Adele begins with the words, “Hello. How are you? I was wondering if after all these years you’d like to meet and go over everything.”

So perhaps this could be a hello from Jesus. For years you may have known him from a distance, and he finally wants to have the conversation with you.

Maybe you knew him once and drifted away. This might be a call to come back and sit down and hear of his love and grace.

Or maybe you’ve never met him. He’s been saying hello all these years, and you never responded.

When we meet people, as Christians we must look into each other’s eyes and see the beautiful soul which dwells there. We must show love, care, and interest, for that is who we are as God’s people.

When we greet others, whether physically, electronically, or on the timeworn written page, hello unlocks and works. It’s a big responsibility, and at the same time an awesome opportunity to do good in the name of the Lord.

The word hello did not come into being until 1827, and then it was a word which was called out to attract attention. When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, he encouraged people to say “hello,” when they answered. Thomas Edison advised people to keep on saying “ahoy” which had been in vogue for at least a century.

In a very real sense, worship is a hello to and from God, and to one another. Worship is a place where everyone is welcomed in the name of God, and they feel valued and part of God’s

family. In fact, the aim of the church is that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will find eternal life, and end up with a hello from our heavenly Father at heaven's gates.

“A city like London,” Alain de Botton writes, “is sociable in a sense that there are people gathering in bars and restaurants, concerts and lectures. Yet you can partake of all these experiences and never say hello to anyone new. And one of the things that all religions do is take groups of strangers into a space and say it is OK to talk to each other.

That is the key. We may not always agree, but we can say hello, and say again and again it is ok to talk to each other. Saying hello to people we know is one thing. The next level, which I experienced once again the other day, is when someone you do not know says hello and genuinely wants to know how you are. What a gift of crossing barriers, meeting new friends, and being warmly greeted God gives us on a regular basis!

As Christians, we have the chance to say “Hello!” numerous times each day. Here's how Paul the apostle did it. From Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! I Thess 1:1-2

Sharing grace and peace is our moment of blessing. It begins with a meeting of the eyes, a smile, and a hello. It just as easily could be missed by being lost in our thoughts or a turn of the head at the wrong moment.

“So many of us, writes boxer turned preacher and grill salesman George Forman, “have loved ones and people we really care about, and the only time we show affection is when they are gone. I have preached at funerals, and you see loved ones who didn't even say hello to dear ones when they were alive. Give them hugs, kisses while they are alive and need it.”

At one time we will be beyond the hello in this world. But heaven offers us the next level of that beautiful and welcoming word. Ernie Harwell, a longtime announcer for the Detroit Tigers, had a beautiful way of saying it on his retirement from broadcasting. “It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I'd much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure.

Perhaps the blessing of the Carpenter's Workshop for you dear reader, is new adventures of hello that brighten your world and the space of others. “The movie star Harrison Ford,” says Liam Hemsworth, “comes on set, and he's very polite and says, 'Hello' to everyone. He cares about everything that's going on, on set. He cares about what's going on with your character and what's in the scene and what's on the desk.”

Perhaps the truest essence of the word hello is indeed care. God cares and loves enough to say hello to the world with his son Jesus. He invites us to do the same.