

Why Jesus Came

Have you ever thought about the purpose of Jesus coming to earth? We all may have an idea about His mission and the odds are that we may be partially correct. However, we may miss the real reason. Some of us will try to complicate the mission by imposing our views of who Jesus is and what we believe He was trying to say or accomplish during those 33 years that He stayed on earth.

Some people believe that Jesus came to earth to liberate the down trodden and bring about certain social and political reforms that would improve the status of the poor, the marginalized, women, or others who were ill-treated by society of His day. We see that Jesus lived in a manner that demonstrated His love and concern for those we just mentioned. However, the law God had given through Moses already addressed fairness, liberality, and justice for all.

Consider this passage found in Deuteronomy. Moses is reminding the children of Israel about the elements of the law.

“If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need *in* whatever he lacks. Beware that there is no base thought in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,’ and your eye is hostile toward your poor brother, and you give him nothing; then he may cry to the LORD against you, and it will be a sin in you. You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings. For the poor will never cease *to be* in the land; therefore, I command you, saying, ‘You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.’ (Deuteronomy 15:7-11 NASB)

The reference to seventh year is about a portion of the Law that forgives various debts every seventh year. Here we are told that the “seventh year” should not influence how we help those in need. Helping those in need has always been the will of God. Jesus may remind us but that was not His primary mission.

The psalmist tells us that God is not pleased with those who pervert justice to mistreat the outcast of society.

God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver *them* out of the hand of the wicked. (Psalm 82:1-4 NASB)

In proverbs we read; **The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor, the wicked does not understand *such* concern. (Proverbs 29:7 NASB)**

While God detailed the various forms of worship and sacrifices in the Law of Moses including the treatment of the less fortunate, the people were often so focused on obedience of some points

of the law that they forgot or ignored the poor. The prophet Micah reminds them that the acts of worship do not take precedence over living with compassion for others.

**With what shall I come to the LORD *and* bow myself before the God on high?
Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves?
Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I
present my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:6-8
NASB)**

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that He practiced these qualities. He looked around and saw sick and diseased people and He felt compassion.

When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:14 NASB)

He looked around and knew when people needed to eat and He felt compassion.

And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, “I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.” (Matthew 15:32 NASB)

Yet, the healing and feeding of the hungry was not the mission of Jesus. If Jesus had those things as His mission, He could have healed from heaven without coming to earth. Think for a minute about answered prayers for healing, have we seen answered prayers? So, doing those miracles was not why Jesus came to the earth.

Yes, in healing the sick and feeding the poor, Jesus showed the type of compassion that God talked about in the Law given to Moses. However, the healing and feeding showed something else. Jesus showed His power over the natural order. Not only could He heal those who were sick, He had power over natural events. Recently we looked at the night when Jesus and His disciples sailed across the Sea of Galilee and the storm threatened to swamp the boat. Remember what happened?

And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” (Mark 4:39-41 NASB)

In reality, the miracles served one main purpose and that is to show that Jesus was the Christ or Messiah.

Therefore, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31 NASB)

We have looked at several things that seem to distract us from the mission of Jesus. Jesus did not come to bring about social change or to improve the life for the marginalized. God had already spelled out our responsibility in that area. The burden for social change and lifting the down-trodden is clearly on our shoulders. Jesus lived in such a way that we can see His love and compassion for those.

Jesus did not come for the purpose of healing or feeding. His miracles that achieved some of those things clearly demonstrate His power. When we read of His miracles, we should strengthen our faith in Him. So, why did Jesus come? It is really very simple.

We catch a glimmer of His mission when an angel of God appeared to Joseph to explain why Mary was pregnant with Jesus.

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Mathew 1:21 NASB)

Jesus came to **save His people from their sins**. When we allow the miracles to hold too much importance, we would then see people bowing down to worship and serve Jesus. Jesus did not come to be served but to die for the sins of mankind.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 NASB)

He came to find the lost and point them back to God.

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10 NASB)

On the night of His arrest, He clearly states His mission and the fact that His death was a part of that mission. He knew that His death was the key to the success of His mission. We observe the memorial that Jesus ordained so that we hold His mission in front of us each week. Yes, I refer to the Lord’s Supper. As Jesus blessed the cup and passed it to His disciples, He tells them and us about the cup with these words: **for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. (Matthew 26:28 NASB)**

The importance of this mission is that Jesus has passed this to us today. We, as Christians, are actively charged to become a part of the mission to seek and save the lost. In Luke the 15th chapter, we read three parables about lost and found.

So, He told them this parable, saying, “What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:3-7 NASB)

Perhaps you like me have seen the comment of Facebook that the one lost sheep does not seem very important until that sheep is me. There is the compassion that we need to have as we look around at the lost sheep within the pasture where we are. The mission of finding and saving was why Jesus came. If we call ourselves by His name, are we turning away from His mission? Jesus gave this mission to us as He was leaving the earth to return to heaven. In Matthew we read:

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20 NASB)

Again, in Mark we have the same words repeated.

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16 NASB)

Our mission is the same as the mission of Jesus, we are to seek the lost and point them to salvation that is only found in Jesus.