

December 16, 2018

Why Jesus Came

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Sometimes Christmas can be a burden but that is not what it is intended to be. It is a great time of the year, hopefully people are more kind and considerate of others, enjoying all the different activities that are involved, making preparations for family and getting together with them and all the bright and colorful decorations. There is the commercial side of Christmas, but that is not the true meaning of Christmas. What is the true meaning of Christmas? The following teaching will help to answer that question for us.

John 1:14-17 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. 15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. 16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." KJV

The word took on flesh, His name is Jesus. Grace and truth came by Jesus. When Jesus came it changed everything especially with the law. There was a specific reason for Jesus' coming to earth, to give us life and that more abundantly and the following scriptures give us that information. Jesus came to undo the works of the adversary, who is only here to steal, kill and destroy.

John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." KJV

1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" KJV

As we begin to venture out into the world around us, we see all the hurting people that have no hope because they don't know Jesus, they have no way.

Matt 9:36-38 "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his

disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." KJV

Jesus was moved with compassion seeing all the people that needed to hear about the harvest, it was His harvest. Jesus came to give us a purpose and a way in life.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." KJV

When God saw the world, it was in darkness and in sin, we would probably have written it off, thinking why take the time trying to make it better, because no one was wanting to hear, but God saw the world in darkness, He loved and then He gave His only Son for the purpose that the world would be saved and have eternal life in them.

A story was shared about a young couple, who had gotten married and had children, but one day she began to think about everything going on in her life and she realized that she was not satisfied. She made the decision to leave her husband and the children and go someplace away from them. The husband was concerned, couldn't figure out what had happened, she would call occasionally, ask about the children, but she would not tell him where she was and when he ask about her coming back there was no response from her, only that she would ask about the children again. For a period of about three months she would call but nothing that he could say to her would convince her to come back. He was upset and couldn't understand what had happened to her and what was she thinking. This went on for a period of time in which the husband hired an investigator to locate her and finding that she was living in a distant city, her husband made the trip to see if he could persuade her to come home. When he confronted her in person, he told her that he loved her, she began to cry and fell in his arms. She consented to go back home with him and as they begin to talk about what had happened, he asked her why she wouldn't come home earlier, her response was that when he asked her to come back those were only words being spoken, but when he actually came to where she was at, he had come in person and that made the difference.

This is what Christmas is all about, Jesus came to us, regardless of where we are at, our past, our concept of Him, He came for us. Jesus has done this in our lives and the lives of the whole world. Only words being spoken were being ignored by the people, but when He actually came in person things changed. Words might have been enough for some people to believe but when Jesus left the glory of heaven and

humbled Himself and put on humanity and became a servant, He came for us, whatever walk of life we are in or where we have been, He came for us, that is what Christmas is about, He came for us. How could we reject that kind of love? He came to get everything to us. He doesn't leave us like He found us.

Eph 5:2 "Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that." MESSAGE

Who is our neighbor? The following scriptures will show us who our neighbors are.

Luke 10:25-38 "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. 29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? 30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. 36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? 37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise." KJV

Lawyers have a way of trying to entrap people but using their words against them, that is what he is trying to do here with the question that he asked Jesus, but Jesus responded to him about what the law said regarding who his neighbor was, then Jesus told him the parable about the victim who had fallen among thieves and what the response of everyone who passed by was. The lawyer was trying to justify himself, push aside the responsibility that he might have toward his neighbor, asking who was his neighbor? Just like the lawyer, we are always trying to find a way out, there has to be reason, that we would not be applying the word or being doers of the word. For us to grow and mature spiritually we must take responsibility of our

actions and decisions and quit blaming everyone else.

The question we ask ourselves is who is our neighbor? Jesus told the story to the lawyer about who his neighbor was. Compassion goes further than sympathy, compassion moves things, it always helps and gets involved to correct the situation. Jesus asked the lawyer, who is your neighbor? as long as you are asking the questions, you are the one in charge.

v. 30 the victim was a Jew and Samaritans had nothing to do with them

v. 31 the priest refused to help because he didn't want to get involved

v. 32 the Levite because of the law prohibiting them to do anything for the Samaritans

v. 33 the Samaritan when he saw the man acted out of compassion, compassion moves things and went to him

v. 34 applied wine and oil to his wounds, wine disinfects and oil heals

v. 35 he took the man to a safe place so that he could be cared for and have his needs met and was willing to continue helping until he was well

v. 36 Jesus was asking, Who is your neighbor?

v. 37 the lawyer's response to Jesus' question was the one who showed mercy on him and then Jesus told what he should be doing

If we see someone in need do what you can to help them. Many times we see things that are happening and someone could use some help, but what is our response? do we just go on and ignore the situation or do we make every effort that we can to be of assistance. This is our neighbor. This is what love is all about, love is a giver not a taker.

A lady shared a dream that she had regarding being in a place with prostitutes where there was sin of all kinds, of which she was part of. She could feel the guilt and shame that the other girls were feeling, but she noticed there was an older lady sitting to one side who continued to look at her watch. The lady who had the dream, ask one of the other girls there, who was the older lady, her response was that she was there trying to get the girls to change their minds about the way of life they were living, but no one would ever listen to her. After a short while, the older lady got up and left, leaving them to themselves, the dream lady went to the window and looked out as

she left and the dream lady felt in her spirit, that the older lady had the answers for her, but she was not going to give it to her. Upon waking up from the dream, the Lord told her that the gray haired lady represented the mature Christians, who are so many times busy judging or so busy with their own lives, that they never look around and see those living in sin or having needs, even though they have the answer for their needs. There comes such a compassion for those people who don't have the answer, they are trapped in their sin, but God has the answers. We can make a difference in the lives of others.

Paul is in prison and writing to the believers in Philippi, he has been unjustly sent there and has every reason to be bitter, but his response is to walk in love. He is pursuing them to walk in love and not for any other reason. Love is something we grow in, love grows in us, God is love. Love has discernment, knows what is best and we will discover our priorities. We are to grow in love, nurture it, yield to it, that it would develop in us, that we could look beyond the outward circumstances and see the inside, how people are wearing the hurts on the outside that are really on the inside, if we could see the whole picture it would be much easier to understand and make allowance for them. They keep the hurts private not letting anyone on the inside unless there is real trust, trust is a very precious thing, you break it and you may never get it back, that is just life. Trust can be sometimes be restored but it is over period of time and may never be restored.

Phil 1:8-10 "For God is my witness how I long for and pursue you all with love, in the tender mercy of Christ Jesus [Himself]! 9 And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may display itself in greater depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment], 10 So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences], and that you may be untainted and pure and unerring and blameless [so that with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not stumbling nor causing others to stumble]."
AMP

These scriptures talk about love, there has to be an outward demonstration and manifestation when speaking about love, it has to be lived in front of people in order for those in the world to fully understand the full meaning of love. Love is the royal law, it is complete, bonding us together in harmony.

Col 3:14 "And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness

[which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]." AMP

James 2:8 "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well." KJV

Jesus came to us, to shed His love in our lives. Lord, show us who we can be a blessing to and meet their need at this special time of year, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!!!