

Imagine you have grown up in this area and are not a Christian. You've heard about Jesus, but you don't know very much about him. You've heard that he is the Son of God and that he lived a sinless life some 2000 years ago and that he died on the cross for the sins of the world. But with this information, you really can't make application and see what all that has to do with you. Perhaps you have some friends that attend here and you notice that they seem to have it together. So you become curious and go to a book store looking for answers. You browse thru the books in search for one that might give you a little bit of information about Jesus. **QUESTION:** Do you think you are going to find the most reliable information there? I think we can all agree that the answer is no.

Why did my Savior come to earth? We sing a song that had those words as its title. The answer given in that song is "*because he loved me so.*" Certainly the great love of Christ caused him to do so many things for you and for me. But there are many episodes in scriptures where Jesus explained His purpose and reason for being here.

For instance, Jesus came to bear witness to the truth. This is what he told Pilate in John 18:37. Earlier Jesus stated that he come not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. All the things that had been spoken by the prophets in times past Jesus fulfilled. In Matt 20:26-28 the text tells us that Jesus came not to be served but to serve. Jesus also said in Mark 1:38 that he came to preach and to teach the gospel. In Luke 19:10 he said that he came to seek and to save the lost. I want to focus on three of those reasons.

First I want us to consider some reasons why Jesus came to earth and then we will consider why that should matter to us today. **The first** is the passage in John 18 that say Jesus came to bear witness to the truth.

As you are finding that passage, let me set the stage for you. Jesus has been arrested from the Garden of Gethsemane where he poured out his heart to God his Father regarding his upcoming death. He didn't want to die the pending death that was before him. From the arrest he goes to the mockery of a trial where he is beaten and ridiculed. After several hours before the Jewish court, they bring Jesus before Pilate. Pilate is a man of authority. He has the power to have Jesus killed by on single command and he has the power to set him free. *John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto*

*him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.* Standing before Pilate, Jesus knows what's coming. To the man that holds the fate in his hands, Jesus says the purpose of my coming was to bear witness unto the truth. In essence Jesus was saying I came to clarify false teaching regarding religion.

On another occasion in John 14 Jesus was talking with his disciples and trying to prepare them for his departure. He tells them that were he goes they cannot go and they are afraid. They had forsaken all to follow him and now he is leaving them alone. So after dropping the bombshell on them Jesus adds, *John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* Then Thomas asked, *John 14:5-6 We know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? (6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* Jesus came to bear witness to the truth. In a world of false teaching, Jesus comes and says I am the way to the Father, i.e. heaven.

What does that have to do with us? Jesus had a consistent message but what about us. It's been said and probably true that you and your life might be the only Bible that some people read. We all probably know people that are **NOT** going to go and dig into their Bibles for information, instead they will watch your life; particularly in your difficult times. So as you and I let Christianity shine in our lives, Jesus will continue to be bearing witness to the truth. Jesus can fulfill his purpose thru us. Like the song says, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." When we do, we bear witness to the truth in a world where there is confusion about "what is truth."

**No. 2. Jesus came to serve.** *Matt 20:26-28 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; (27) And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: (28) Even as the Son of man came*

*not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.* This term “*not to be ministered unto, but to minister*” is rendered in some Bible versions as “*not to be served, but to serve.*” What a beautiful thought that is. The perfect man that Jesus was, He didn’t come seeking praise while he was here. He came to preach the word and to help others – He came to serve. He served in many aspects; comforting, teaching, healing, admonishing, just to name a few.

Serving is one of those things that we give a lot of lip service to but often come up short in putting it to practice. Jesus understood the blessing of serving others. It is said of him that he said, “It is more blessing to give than to receive.” Serving others unconditionally is one of those things that set the Christian apart from most of the world. We live in a society that is all about me, but the life of the Christian is not about me but about you. As a Christian, we stop thinking about me and start focusing on others. There was a time in John 13 where Jesus washed his disciple’s feet and in so doing he demonstrated to them the principle of serving. Then he said, John **13:15** *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.* He left us a message by example and that message was to be a servant.

Christ showed us through every aspect of his life that he loved people; embedded in that love is service. **John 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, (what kind of love had Jesus just demonstrated?) that ye also love one another. (35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.* Disciple, you love as I loved. When we love as Christ loved, men will know that we are his disciples. By their fruits they shall know you. We don’t need hypocrites in the church, we need servants.

**No. 3. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.** In Luke 19 we read about a man named Zacchaeus that was chief among the publicans. Zacchaeus was a small man and had to put forth a great amount of effort to see Jesus as he came through town. Jesus noticed Zacchaeus and invited himself to his house. As I try to put myself in Zacchaeus shoes and imagine what he thought when Jesus said, I’m going home with you today.

A publican was a tax collector and many publicans were dishonest and took advantage of the people. The penalty if you were caught in dishonest dealings was to pay back what you received fourfold. So in Zacchaeus conversation with Jesus he saw himself as he was he said, ***“Luke 19:8 ... Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.”*** Here we have a man willing to change and do what he could to make things right. Now notice what Jesus said to this man.

***Luke 19:9-10 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. (10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*** Jesus saw this publican as a lost soul and he reached out to him. This probably shocked many because that was not what the Jewish religious leaders would do; but Jesus did not prejudge anyone neither should we. Jesus didn't limit his friends to just his disciples. Notice Mark 2. ***Mark 2:15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.*** Because of this, some asked why was Jesus having dinner with sinners.

Jesus used a word for his purpose that we should not overlook and that word is “seek”. This carries the idea of looking – looking for an opportunity to study with and try to answer their question as to why did my Savior come to earth. It is hard to look for an opportunity to share the gospel if you are isolated from the lost. **QUESTION:** Are we seeking the lost or are we waiting for them to come to us? Rarely is someone going to walk up to you and ask you to study the Bible with them. This is not the way it works. Jesus was looking for the lost and he saw Zacchaeus up in a tree. Are you looking?

Turn to John 4. In this chapter we have Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at the well. In their conversation, Jesus informs this woman about how well he knows her and he mentions to her something about living water. This living water gets her attention and the more they talk the more she wonders who this man is that knows so much about her. Then his disciples return and ask Jesus about food and he says to them ***John 4:34 My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*** What

a marvelous thought that is. What keeps us going is not what we had for supper last night; no, what keeps us going is fulfilling God's will and finishing his work. ***John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*** Most of us have heard that before.

On another occasion, ***Mark 2:15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.*** God needs seekers.

Why does any of this matter? It matters to us because Jesus ministry could be summed up in two words, "Follow me." ***Luke 9:23 If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*** The message "follow me" is a message to us today and it's why the things that Jesus did and taught are important because they show us what we are to follow. ***1 Cor 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*** One of the things Paul did was leave Judaism and became a NT Christian by obeying the gospel commands.

Jesus said:

I came that the world would know truth.

That the world would know how to serve.

That the world would know how to be saved.

Invitation.

Are you saved? Have you obeyed the gospel?