

What did He do?

December 20, 2009

John 3:16 (The Message)

16-18" This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

- A lot of people talk about what He did, and He did a great many things
- But the greatest thing He did sometimes gets lost in the wind.

The problem 1

Tell the Story..... 2

 1. We don't fully understand His love, if we don't understand Who He is..... 2

 2. We don't fully understand His birth, if we don't understand Who He is. 3

 3. We don't fully understand His miracles, We don't fully understand His teachings, We don't fully understand ANYTHING if we don't understand Who He is. 3

What would you do? 3

The problem ...

The problem we have in the world however is that His primary purpose for being born is oftentimes overlooked, masked, or cloaked in all the awesome and wonderful things He did.

Last week we talked about the importance of understanding WHO Christ was through the lens of Matthew 16:13-18. In that text Jesus confronts the disciples with a discussion on who Christ is; in verse 16 Peter gives the answer: "You are the Messiah, the Savior, and the Son of God". We spent a great deal of time talking afterwards about how we stand on that decision and how it relates to others - let me re-iterate that that this understanding of who Christ is in this scripture is not a discussion on evangelism, or how we go

sharing Christ with other people - that's for another sermon. Rather it's a question on whether or not WE, all of us here right now, fully understand who Jesus is:

1. **Messiah & Savior** - He is the one who can grant us eternal life. In comparisons with other faiths, they may have major prophets but rarely do those prophets proclaim that they are the savior for all their followers.
2. **Son of God** - No other prophet declares him or herself the Son of the God of the heavens but Jesus Christ. It's essential for us to understand that for those who call themselves Christians, the belief is that Christ is the Son of God.

I repeat - this isn't a discussion on evangelism but rather a direct question to each of us: Do we really know who Christ is?

Therefore, upon finding out WHO Christ is we can properly place WHAT He did.

The most complete understanding of WHAT He has done can only be achieved through understanding WHO He is?

You could look on the inside of my wedding ring and see the phrase, "To Bo, on the Happiest Day of my life," and could gather that my wife had it inscribed. You could look at many of the cards I'd written to my wife over all the years we've been married and see that very often I'll address them to "my Ruth". In both cases you could know what I did but not really have a full understanding because you don't know the "me" that makes the act relevant. In order to understand the WHAT in these situations you have to understand the WHO. And in both of these cases the WHO are Anne & I, two people who really connected on a teaching lesson from the Book of Ruth so many years ago. And through those lessons we fell even deeper in love and found strength and encouragement in calling each other Bo and Ruth.

And so it is with Christ, we can only fully understand WHAT he's done through understanding WHO He is?

If I were to go around the world and ask people from every demographic what one word they would use to describe Jesus what do you think the most often word used would be? I'd dare say it would be love.

Tell the Story

1. We don't fully understand His love, if we don't understand Who He is.

16-18 "This is how much God loved the world:

2. We don't fully understand His birth, if we don't understand Who He is.

16-18 He gave his Son, his one and only Son.

3. We don't fully understand His miracles, We don't fully understand His teachings, We don't fully understand ANYTHING if we don't understand Who He is.

Since He is Saviour, Since He is Son of God, He is born to die.

And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him. (Message)

16"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,[a] that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (NIV)

What would you do?

Many may not know the names Jodi Picoult at first hand but many will recognize her book turned movie called: My Sister's Keeper. In the story we find 16 year old sister, Kate, who is stricken with leukemia [say terminal illness] and has been struggling all her life. At the age of 5 her parents decide to biologically conceive a donor for her by genetically engineering and birthing another daughter named Anna to serve as a donor - blood, marrow, organ, etc. - for her older sister. The story turns traumatic when after 11 years of being poked for blood, marrow, and whatever else doctors may need, Anna decides she's reached her limit when her older sister needs a kidney transplant. She then seeks out a lawyer she sees on TV, and draws up a law suite against her parents so that she may be medically

emancipated. At this the family is shaken incredibly since Anna no longer wants to give herself and her life for her sister. Read the book for the full experience and find out what happens.

What would you do if you were in Anna's position?

I am convinced that many of us would want to give the good Christian answer by stating, "Yes, I'd give my kidney and whatever else it took to save my sister's life," but I don't think we'd really be that honest about walking the walk unless we were in those shoes.

We as Christians have the continual habit of saying the right words, but when it get downs to the actions we may find ourselves like Peter 3, 4, 5, or more times forgetting we know Christ.

In all reality it's a hard decision that our Savior was faced with, too, but He answered, "Yes, I'll give whatever it takes," and when it came time to walk in His words, He did that very thing.