

Why did He do it? How He does it.

January 3, 2010

WHY?

John 20

30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may[a] believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

1 John 5:13-15

13-15 My purpose in writing is simply this: that you who believe in God's Son will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life, the reality and not the illusion. And how bold and free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he's listening. And if we're confident that he's listening, we know that what we've asked for is as good as ours.

HOW?

Rev 3: 20

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

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The problem ...

Why did Jesus do what He did?

Can you really understand the "Empire Strikes Back" without having seen "Star Wars, A New Hope"? Can you really understand "The Return of the Jedi" without having seen "The Empire Strikes Back"? Well, in the same way you can miss out on today's lesson unless you understand what we've been speaking the past 2 weeks. You can walk away with "an" understanding of what is presented but it risks being the complete understanding because you've not seen the two prequels leading up to today. Many well meaning people across the world begin by answering that question without first flushing out who Jesus is, and secondly, explaining "what" He did in the first place.

WHO IS HE?

We began two weeks ago with discussion about **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? And that then was the subject of our last meeting.

WHAT DID HE DO?

He loved us so so much, and walked in the role of Savior that He therefore died for us as we see in the all too familiar John 3:16. But as I mentioned you can walk away feeling good saying Jesus died for

me,. but we've an incomplete truth about what that means unless we understand WHO did the dying - the one who is Savior and the Son of God. Many people in history have died for others, but the one reason His death is different is because He is Savior and Son.

We spoke of how we can't understand His love, His birth, nor his miracles & teachings unless we understand WHO He is.

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)

And today ...

And today we conclude by focusing on the Why and the How - but we will once again have an incomplete understanding unless we understand WHAT He did, which can only be understood in its completion if we realize WHO He is.

Why did He die on the cross for the sins of the world so that everyone could spend eternity in heaven?

John 20

30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written

- **that you may[a] believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,**
- **and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

1 John 5:13-15

*13-15 My purpose in writing is simply this: **that you who believe in God's Son will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life, the reality and not the illusion.** (Message)*

13I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (NIV)

13(A) These things I have written to you who (B) believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have (C) eternal life. NASB

13 I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. (NLT)

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life,[a] and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. (NKJV)

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. (KJV)

So that we can know we have eternal life

I've said every week during this series that our focus is not on evangelism on this study but on person clarity and conviction for who we believe in and what we as Christians believe, and I say it again: it is paramount to know that as Christians we have the ability to know right now, beyond the shadow of doubt that we in fact can and do have eternal life!

We can discuss this in overtime, but this is not a shared realization for our brothers and sisters among the Jewish faith, among the Jehovah's Witness' faith, among those of the Muslim faith, nor among the great deal of faiths across the world. Nearly every faith apart from Christendom negates the idea and concept of a person knowing that they are in fact going to heaven right now - knowing that the ticket has been paid, receipt in hand, and the new life awaits right now.

So allow me to state again that if we know Jesus Christ is Savior and Son, and we therefore understand that He died on the cross so that you and I could live forever with Him in heaven when we die, and He did this so that we could know right now that we do have eternal life, what's the problem? Why isn't everyone walking around with the salvation card in their back pocket?

It's a heart issue.

How does He appeal to us? Through the heart.

Rev 3: 20

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

- *We know the reference to Laodecia*

- *All power in universe yet He knocks*
 - *Cold force it down*
 - *We should be knocking at His door*
 - *Our heart gets in the way*
 - *For this reason a person who has been going to church all their life could be completely off yet one who just gave their life over may be greater in faith*
- *He's like a salesman*
 - *doing His best to sell*
 - *but not with deceit*
 - *but not with questionable speculation*
 - *with sincerity*
- *Wants to come in*
 - *exactly as your house is*
- *"Keeps" knocking cause we take so long to answer*
 - *House is dirty*
 - *Got stuff out*
 - *Got some things on the coffee table and countertops that shouldn't be there*
 - *Remember story of walking into house in South Boston*
 - *He's even willing to take a hit*
- *He wants to eat with us*
 - *The high meal*
 - *The Thanksgiving feast*
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