



WHY DID JESUS COME?

INTRODUCTION

Why is there a Christmas holiday? Why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ? Who was He and what did He do that makes Him so special? Seven billion people have a birthday every year but what makes Jesus' birthday so significant? To answer these questions, it would be best to go straight to the source Himself.

From His own lips, here are four reasons why Jesus Christ came to earth:



TO FULFILL GOD'S LAW

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished." | Matthew 5:17-18

Many people think that Jesus came to rebel against the law of His people, but He tells us that He actually came to fulfill it.

Before Jesus' arrival, revolts against the Roman authorities were rampant. Because of this hunger for rebellion, Jesus told His followers in Matthew 5 that He did not come to rebel against authority. He did not come to do away with the Old Testament; He came to complete it. He did not come to lead an uprising; He came to submit to God's commands. He came to obey every word of Scripture. He came to fulfill the law.

TO CALL SINNERS

"... It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. ... for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." | Matthew 9:12-13

The Greek word for "call" here is "kaleo". It means "to invite", "to summon", or "to call to one's house". Jesus is saying that He did not come to summon those who are sinless. He came to call those who know they are sinful and have failed to obey God's law.

James 2:10 says, "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all." God is perfectly holy. He possesses absolute moral perfection. In order to go to heaven when you die, you have to have that too. If you break one part of His law, you are guilty of breaking all of it, and the punishment for that is an eternity in hell. You must believe that Jesus Christ came to call people just like you; He came to call sinners.

TO SEEK AND TO SAVE WHAT WAS LOST

"... Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." | Luke 19:9-10

In this passage, Jesus was staying at the house of Zaccheus, a man of small stature and big problems. Zaccheus was a chief tax collector, which means that he was passionately hated by his own people. You could not find a more disgraceful job in ancient Israel than the one Zaccheus held, and no one had to tell him that he was lost for it. He understood that thoroughly.

Someone did have to tell him how to be saved, which is what Jesus did here. In Luke 19:9, Jesus said that "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham." Zaccheus responded to Jesus in faith (Luke 19:5-6) and acknowledged that Jesus alone could save him. As a result, he got his life back. He was a son of Abraham again, because Jesus "came to seek and to save that which was lost."

TO GIVE LIFE

"... Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." | John 10:7-11

Sheep are very interesting animals. They have no natural sense of direction, no natural defenses, and no awareness of their environment. As such, they are extremely high-maintenance.

For sheep to survive, they need the help of a shepherd. They need a guide to bring them to safe pastures and to fresh waters. They need a leader to protect them from wolves and lions and poachers, and that is what Jesus is. He is the Good Shepherd.

As a shepherd, He protects His followers from the dangers of sin and death and hell. He guides them to places of safety and to places where they can find nourishment for their soul.

Not only is He a shepherd for His sheep, Jesus is also a door for them. He provides a way for His disciples to enter into heaven. He provides a way for them to be forgiven and made right with God. He came to give them life.

CONCLUSION

Will you believe in Jesus today? Will you trust in this Good Shepherd?

His birthday really was special because there is no one like Him. It is definitely a cause to celebrate, because no one else can do what He did. Jesus came to be punished so that His followers would be rewarded. He came to suffer God's wrath on the cross so that they could enjoy God's pleasure in eternity. He came to die so that they might live, and He came to rise again from the dead so that they might rise again with Him.

You can rise again yourself if you trust in this Saviour. You can experience all of this if you believe in the One whose birth is celebrated at Christmastime. If you would like to learn more about Jesus and how to believe in Him, please contact us. We would love to hear from you!

