

Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart

Part 1-The Beginning Heart Posture Justifies the Bridal Heart at the End

I. HAVE TO START WITH THE END IN MIND

"Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (REV 19 6-8)

We have a responsibility to make ourselves ready for the return of Jesus. This scenario in Revelation 19 is the marriage supper of the Lamb. It is the wedding feast, after the Rapture, after Jesus conquers the world. The victory parade of Jesus doesn't end in the streets it end in a marriage ceremony. And the angel conveys to John a truth of immense proportion and one that has been largely ignored for generations. You have a responsibility to be ready for when your master returns!

²⁸And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. (1Jn 2:28 NKJV)

²⁸And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. (1Jn 2:28 NLT)

This verse is one of John's most pastoral yet piercing warnings. He is addressing "little children"—true believers—not outsiders. Yet he presents two possible reactions at Christ's return: **confidence**, marked by bold openness, or **shame**, marked by shrinking back and regret. That reality alone should sober us.

John is not contrasting salvation with condemnation. He is describing **relational posture** at the moment of encounter. The dividing line is not belief, but **abiding**. Some believers remain in close fellowship with Christ; others, though still His, do not. The issue is **fellowship, not sonship**.

Think about any meaningful relationship:

- A child who has been close, honest, responsive → runs *toward* a parent
- A child who has avoided, ignored, or lived double-minded → hesitates, hides, or fears exposure

John's language echoes:

- **Genesis 3** (Adam *hiding* from God)
- **1 Corinthians 3** (works tested by fire; salvation remains, but loss is felt)
- **2 Corinthians 5:10** (believers appearing before Christ to give account)

Shame here is not condemnation—it is **realized distance**.

Some believers remain in close fellowship with Christ; others drift from abiding while still bearing His name. Over time, this loss of fellowship does not remain neutral—it reshapes the heart. Confidence before Christ is slowly replaced by distance, then avoidance, then fear.

Paul warns in **Second Epistle to the Thessalonians 2** that a great falling away will come before the Day of the Lord. That apostasy is not sudden rebellion but the end result of prolonged separation from Christ. When He appears, many will not run to Him as refuge because they have never learned to meet Him there. The shame John describes becomes the mechanism of falling away: those who no longer abide will lack the courage to draw near, and in shrinking back, they finally turn away.

So we come to the Question that provide meaning for our Life. **What does abiding really mean?**

And this is where we start our journey...The Life of Jesus on Purpose!! What is He leading us too?

II. “He Knew: The End-Heart Hidden in the Beginning”

I am going all the way back to the beginning, and I felt in my heart to start with the Christmas Eve narrative I read during our Christmas Eve Service **“He Knew”**

1) OPENING: “It was a quiet night...”

Preaching moment (slow, reflective):

The night was quiet—not because the world was healed, but because the world didn't yet realize what had begun. Your narrative captures this perfectly: “Not quiet because the world was at peace... but quiet because no one yet realized what had begun.”

Christmas is not sentimental—Christmas is **invasion**.

Not invasion with swords, but invasion with **humility**.

2) THE SHOCK: “He came in the exact opposite way”

Luke emphasizes the ordinariness and the lowness:

- no palace
- no spotlight
- a feeding trough
- a borrowed space

“No throne. No announcement... Just cloth... and wood... and breath.”

Why would God choose a path that looks like weakness?

Because He wasn't only coming to *teach* humans.

He was coming to **redeem humans**—and redemption required Him to enter the human condition all the way down to death.

3) THE HEART OF JESUS: “This child did not arrive unaware”

This is the hinge point of His Birth. It is His thesis confession:

"This child did not arrive unaware... He knew the weight of flesh... He knew sorrow..."

Now connect it to John 1:

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." That line is not poetry only it is a conscious decision.

What does "He knew" mean? It means Jesus is not reacting to history, He is entering history with intention. In the narrative I mention:

"He did not step into the world blind to its pain."

Jesus did not enter this world to visit pain, to taste it to relate to us. Jesus came to carry it

4) "FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, HE CAME CLOSE"

This is where you "search His heart."

In the narrative repeats the word *close* like a drumbeat:

"From the very beginning, He came close... close enough to be touched... wounded... suffer."

Why Close? Because love that stays distant isn't redemption; it's commentary.

This is Jesus' heart intention:

- Not information from heaven
- Not instructions shouted from above
- But **God-with-us** (Emmanuel) in the place where humans actually live: *fear, shame, weakness, poverty, misunderstanding, grief*.

Jesus didn't come to *avoid* darkness. He came to enter it, because love enters what it intends to save.

5) REDEEMING THE PAST: "validated through the vessel called Israel"

Jesus redeems the past, He doesn't erase it.

A) The past is not discarded; it is fulfilled

Matthew opens with genealogy for a reason. It's not boring; **it's covenant memory**:

- God made promises to Abraham (blessing), David (kingdom), Israel (presence).
- Jesus is God saying: **I did not forget.**

The birth of Jesus is God stepping into Israel's long ache, long waiting, long story; proving God is trustworthy across centuries.

The narrative echoes that prophetic arc:

"The prophets had spoken of Him long before this night..."

B) Redeeming the past also means healing what sin broke

Jesus doesn't just fulfill "religious predictions."

He enters the human storyline where:

- shame has grown generational roots
- death has become normal
- humans have learned survival instead of surrender

He comes to redeem the entire human story from the inside.

6) REDEEMING THE FUTURE: "the manger already whispers the cross"

Here's where your "end-heart in the beginning" becomes unmistakable.

The narrative draws the straight line:

"The hands... would one day be pierced."

"The body wrapped in cloth would one day be wrapped again."

The birth of Jesus, His Incarnation is cross-shaped !

The wood shows up early:

Manger = wood.

Cross = wood.

God is quietly saying: *I'm already here for the end.*

Swaddling cloths at birth.

Burial linens at death.

Same God. Same mission. Same love.

"He knew what this night would lead to—and He came anyway."

7) THE DISCIPLESHIP TURN: "He stayed"

This is where it stops being a Christmas message and becomes a call.

"He stayed... when rejected... when suffering pressed in... when the cost became clear."

The heart of Jesus is not a moment—His heart is a direction: *toward us, through death, into resurrection life.*

So we can come to the conclusion that Jesus' birth is not God starting something He might quit.

Jesus' birth is God beginning the path He will finish.

8) THE INVITATION: A BRIDEGROOM CALLING A BRIDE

Jesus' end-heart: communion forever.

But the doorway is surrender—because love cannot be forced, only offered.

So the invitation of Jesus' birth is:

- Will you let Him come close?
- Will you trust Him with your darkness?
- Will you practice the "daily deaths" that train your heart for resurrection?

The narrative brings this into clear perspective:

"That light began in a manger. It carried love through the cross. And it still shines—quiet, steady..."

III. Closing

We return to the beginning Not to a fairytale. Not to sentiment. But to intention.

The birth of Jesus reveals the heart posture of God the Father from the very first moment. This was not God testing an idea. This was God committing Himself fully.

Jesus did not arrive unaware. He did not step into our story blind to its cost. From the very beginning, He knew—and He came anyway.

He chose obscurity over recognition. Nearness over distance. Vulnerability over safety. Because love does not redeem from afar. Love comes close.

The manger already carried the shape of the cross. The wood was there. The cloth was there. The surrender was already in motion.

God was not erasing the past—He was fulfilling it. He was proving that He remembers His promises. That He is faithful across generations. That nothing broken is beyond redemption.

And He was not reacting to the future—He was securing it. From the very beginning, resurrection was in view.

Jesus' life was always moving in one direction: toward us, through death, and into life.

This is not God starting something He might walk away from. This is God setting His feet on a path He will finish.

So the invitation of Jesus' Birth is not simply to admire the light—but to trust it. To let Him come close. To surrender the places we've learned to protect. To practice the daily deaths that train our hearts for resurrection.

Because the light that began in a manger carried love through the cross and still shines—quiet, steady, and unextinguished.

And that light is not just for us to see.

It is the path we have the responsibility to carry out, to make ourselves ready so that we are confident and not ashamed at Jesus' Return!!

Appendix 1: A Christmas Eve Narrative: “He Knew”

It was a quiet night.

Not quiet because the world was at peace—
but quiet because no one yet realized what had begun.

In a small town, in a borrowed space, a child was born.
No throne. No announcement. No protection from the cold.

Just cloth... and wood... and breath.

They wrapped Him and laid Him down, not knowing that the stillness of that moment would echo through history.

But heaven knew.

This child did not arrive unaware.
He did not step into the world blind to its pain.

He knew the weight of flesh before He ever felt it.
He knew hunger before He ever cried.
He knew sorrow before anyone ever placed Him in a manger.

From the very beginning, He came close.

Close enough to be touched.
Close enough to be wounded.
Close enough to suffer.

The prophets had spoken of Him long before this night—
that He would be acquainted with grief,
that sorrow would walk beside Him,
that love would cost Him everything.

Even His mother would one day hear words she could not yet understand—
that a sword would pierce her own soul too.

The child sleeping peacefully that night would one day wake the dead.
The hands that reached for comfort would one day be pierced.
The body wrapped in cloth would one day be wrapped again.

And still... He came.

Not because the world was ready.
Not because the path was easy.
But because love does not turn away from darkness.

It enters it.

This is the beauty of Christmas.

Not that God stayed distant and sent light from afar—
but that the Light stepped into the dark
and stayed.

He stayed when the world rejected Him.
He stayed when suffering pressed in.
He stayed when the cost became clear.

Because He knew what this night would lead to—
and He came anyway.

Tonight, we remember that the light we celebrate did not avoid pain.
It passed through it.

And the darkness did not overcome it.

In a moment, we will sing *Silent Night*.
We will lift candles, one flame at a time.

And as the light spreads, remember this:

That light began in a manger.
It carried love through the cross.
And it still shines—quiet, steady, unextinguished.

For unto us was born not just a child...
but a Savior.