

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of several golden wheat stalks on the left side. On the right side, an open Bible is visible, showing text on its pages. A yellow bookmark is placed in the Bible. The entire scene is set against a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a wooden table.

Parables

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” - Mark 4:9



The Kingdom Of God

Luke 17:20-21

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, now will people say, “Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”

Matthew 6 - The Lord’s prayer

Who were the Pharisees?

The Pharisees were a prominent Jewish religious and political movement during the Second Temple period (roughly 515 BCE to 70 CE). They were known for their strict adherence to both the written [Torah](#) and the [oral tradition](#), which they believed Moses received alongside the written law. This group emphasized ritual purity, the resurrection of the dead, and the importance of both the written and oral laws.

What did the Pharisees Believe?

- The Pharisees taught the following doctrines:
 1. God controls all things, but decisions made by individuals also affect life's course.
 2. There will be a resurrection of the dead ([Acts 23:6](#)).
 3. There is an afterlife, with appropriate reward and punishment on an individual basis. The Messiah will set up His kingdom on earth.
 4. The spiritual realm, including the existence of angels and demons, is real ([Acts 23:8](#)).

Who were the Tax Collectors?

In the time of Jesus, tax collectors (also known as publicans) were individuals, often Jews, who were hired by the Roman government to collect taxes from their fellow Jews in the provinces of the Roman Empire

Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector

Luke 19:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men - robbers, evildoers, adulterers- or even like this tax collector.. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- Colossians 1:21-23

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

²³ But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? ⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

⁴³ And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

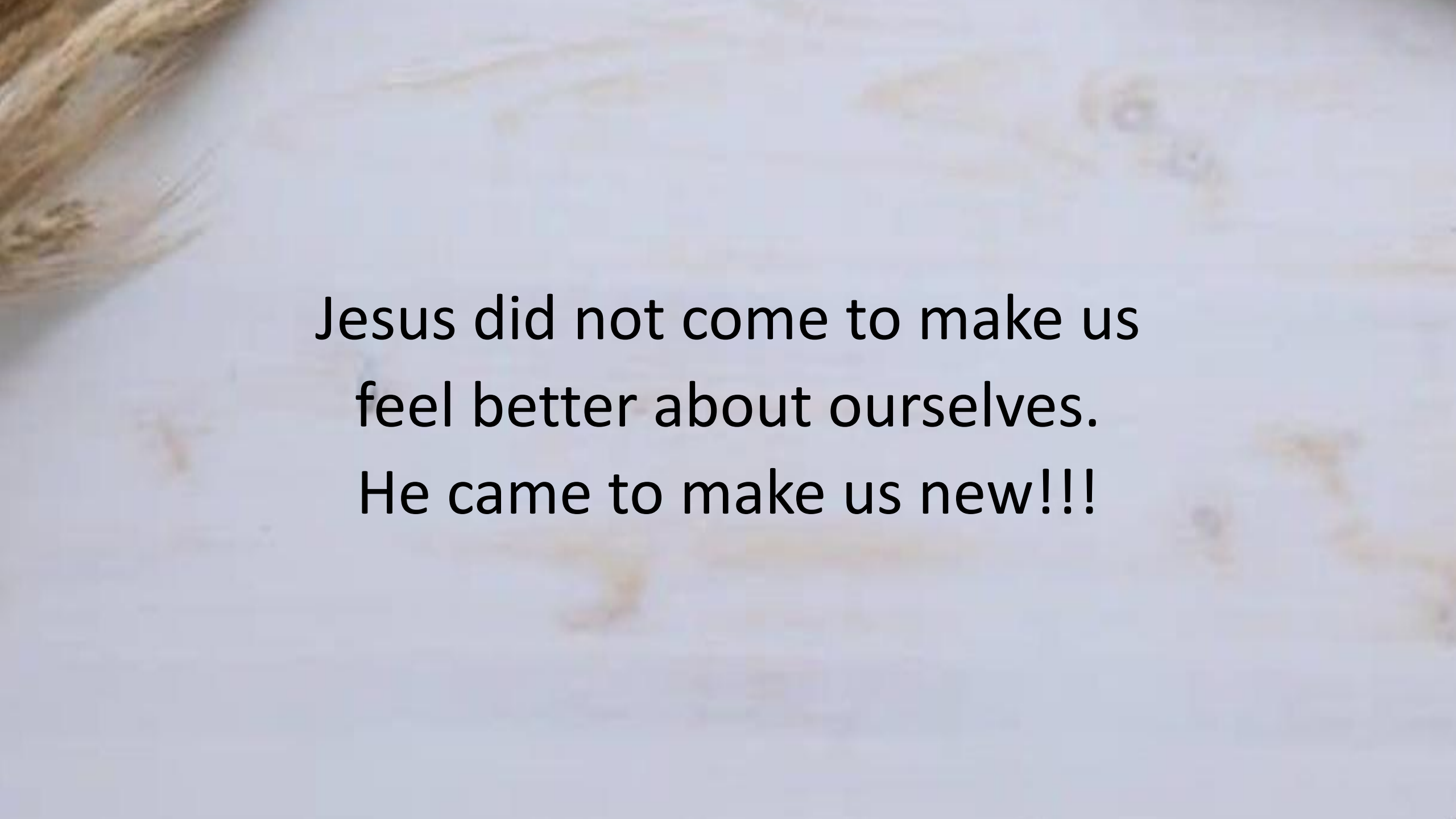
Colossians 2:13-15

¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.



Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and receive grace to help in time of our need.



Jesus did not come to make us
feel better about ourselves.
He came to make us new!!!