

As I was praying about what to teach this morning for Christmas I was pulled in a lot of directions. I love doing a detailed look at the nativity story. I also love going into the minor characters like Simeon or Anna that are usually forgotten. I've also done studies on the contradictions in the incarnation. The eternal God had to be born He now had a begging. There were so many things we could look at in reference to Christmas, and yet I just kept praying God what do you want for this week. What do you want us to study?

There was one question that I kept coming back to. **Why?** Why did Jesus come? We study what He did and what He accomplished by coming. We also study the effects of His coming. But the question of Why kept coming back. Why did He come? As I started studying, I was intrigued with how many statements Jesus gave specifically saying **I came to...**

So, this morning we are going to study the why of Christmas? Why did Jesus come. Our first passage is John 8:42

Jesus came because He was sent

John 8:42 ESV

(42) Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. **I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.**

Jesus is making a very interesting statement. He was sent by the Father. He did not come "*of my own accord, on my own authority*"

We know from scripture that His coming was willing.

Philippians 2:6-8 NLT

(6) Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God **as something to cling to.**

(7) Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; **He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.** When He appeared in human form,

(8) He humbled himself **in obedience to God** and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Meaning When God the Father sent God the Son it was not against the Sons will. But He was asked to submit to the Father's will. He willingly humbled Himself in obedience to the Father. He was being sent out with a very clear goal.

Jesus came to do the Fathers will

John 6:38-40 ESV

(38) **For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me.**

(39) **And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.**

(40) **For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."**

Jesus came specifically to fulfill the will of God the Father. And verse 40 makes it

very clear what that will was:

“that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life,”

God the Father wanted God the Son to come in order to establish the basis for salvation. Jesus came in order for us to believe in Him so we can have eternal life.

Jesus came to be the Savior of the World

1 Timothy 1:15 ESV

(15) The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, of whom I am the foremost.

1 John 4:14 ESV

(14) And we have seen and testify that **the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.**

The world was in desperate need of a savior. The Father does not need to send Jesus if a savior is not needed. But we know we needed saving. Saving from what? Our sin and its consequences.

Romans 3:23-24 ESV

(23) **for all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,
(24) and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 6:23 ESV

(23) **For the wages of sin is death**, but **the free gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Our salvation offered in Jesus is so broad and far reaching and yet in its narrow sense, Jesus saves us from our sin and its consequences. Because of the position we were in He had to seek us out.

Jesus came to call the sinners (seek and save the lost)

Mark 2:16-17 ESV

(16) And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that **He was eating with sinners** and tax collectors, said to His disciples, “Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

(17) And when Jesus heard it, He said to them, **“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

Luke 19:10 ESV

(10) For the Son of Man **came to seek and to save the lost.**"

He did not come to the righteous. We can lose sight of this. With how the church has been formalized. We can forget that Jesus came to seek out the sinner. To have dinner with the cheating, lying, government tax collector, and the immoral prostitute. Jesus was very clear He came to be a savior of the sinner, not the self-righteous. He came to the people who needed Him. He rejected those who didn't think they needed Him.

What Jesus offers; the salvation he offers gives life.

Jesus came to give abundant life

John 10:10 ESV

(10) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it **abundantly**.

περισσός, ἢ, ὄν 'exceeding the usual number or size';

1. pert. to that which is not ordinarily encountered, **extraordinary, remarkable**
2. pert. to being extraordinary in amount, **abundant, profuse**
 - a. **going beyond what is necessary, in abundance**

This salvation didn't merely save us. That would have been grand in itself. But our God is so gracious He gives us new life. And not just any life. **He gives us abundant, extraordinary, remarkable, supreme, wonderful life.** This abundant life is found walking in relationship with Him.

In order to be able to offer this salvation and this kind of life there were some things Jesus had to do when He came.

Jesus came to fulfill the law

Matthew 5:17-18 ESV

(17) "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**

(18) For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law **until all is accomplished.**

Jesus came to perfectly fulfill every part of the Law. In order to offer salvation, He had to be perfect. He could not have any sin Himself. If He had His own sin, then He would not have been able to take on ours.

Perfectly fulfilling the Law, meant Jesus was able to be the sacrifice.

Jesus came to give His life a ransom

Matthew 20:28 ESV

(28) even as the Son of Man **came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as**

a ransom for many.”

A ransom situation involves 3 parties.

1. The person or Thing that is captured.
-This is humanity in sin
2. The payment
-This verse says Jesus as the ransom payment
3. The person or thing requiring the payment.

Ephesians 5:2 ESV

(2) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and **sacrifice to God**.

The payment was made to God the Father.

Hebrews 9:12+14 ESV

(12) He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves **but by means of His own blood**, thus securing an eternal redemption.

(14) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit **offered himself without blemish to God**, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Jesus' blood is the ransom payment and it was made in the holy place and given to God the Father. His holiness and Character require sin be paid for. We cannot introduce Satan into this transaction. Satan did not want sin to be paid for, God the father did.

These statements of why Jesus came have been laying out salvation. God the Father sent the Son to be the savior of the World by living a perfect life and offering Himself on the cross to pay for our sins.

This is a message of great hope, it is light to the dark world.

Jesus came to be the Light to the world

John 12:46-47 ESV

(46) **I have come into the world as light**, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

(47) If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; **for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.**

He came to be the light, and bring us out of darkness. At His first coming He did not come to condemn the world. He did not come as the Judge this time, but to bring light.

The light He brought though does end up judging the World listen to what verse 48 says.

John 12:48 ESV

(48) The one who rejects me and does not receive my words **has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.**

If you reject this message of salvation if you do not believe in Jesus as your savior, then you will be held accountable. He has given the offer of salvation. Those who reject will be judged based on the offer.

This principle helps explain some of the harder passages of why Jesus said He came.

Jesus came for Judgment

John 9:39 ESV

(39) Jesus said, **“For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”**

This seems to directly contradict the passage we just read.

In context Jesus has just healed a blind man, and the religious leaders reject what has happened. The literal blind are made to see. And the religious leaders who should be the ones seeing are blind to who He is. The truth Jesus brought, is condemning and judging the religious leaders as they reject it.

Another tough passage of why Jesus came is in Matthew 34

Jesus came to bring a sword and division

Matthew 10:34-35 ESV

(34) **“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, **but a sword.****

(35) **For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother,**

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

This is not an often-quoted passage. Especially at Christmas. We are more comfortable with what Linus quotes in a Charlie Brown Christmas

Luke 2:14 KJV

(14) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14 ESV

(14) “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace among those with whom he is pleased!**”

Jesus came to bring the Sword. This is the result of Truth. It is uncomprising, unwavering, and exacting. Salvation is a free gift, and freely offered and yet but its definition it condemns those who do not accept it.

Luke 12:49-53 ESV

- (49) **“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!**
- (50) I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!
- (51) Do you think that **I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.**
- (52) For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three.
- (53) They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

There is going to be a purifying Judgment that comes with Jesus second coming. It was not time for it at His first coming. His first coming secured Salvation but it did not secure peace on earth. This is an important distinction His first coming, secured Salvation which made our peace with God possible.

Ephesians 2:13+14 ESV

- (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- (14) **For He Himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

His blood secured our peace with God but He did not usher in His peace on earth yet. This is the division these verses are talking about. As long as there is still falsehood in the world. **As long as there are still people who reject Christ the truth will always be divisive.**

John 3:16-19 ESV

(16) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

(17) **For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

(18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, **but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**

(19) **And this is the judgment:** the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

The darkness wants nothing to do with the light. The light did not come to condemn but the darkness stands condemned because it rejects the light.

In all the statements we looked at of why Jesus said He came it was tempting to leave these last few out. Yet these statements describe the World we live in. They describe the division we will face for standing for truth.

It also makes us long for His second coming when he will usher in peace to this earth.

Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV

(6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**

(7) **Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,** on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The story does not end with Christmas or Jesus coming as a baby, or with the life He lived, or even with His death and resurrection. He is coming back and will usher in His kingdom. He will usher in a lasting peace on this earth.

Listen to how this Peace on Earth is described.

Isaiah 32:17-18 ESV

(17) And the effect of righteousness **will be peace**, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

(18) **My people will abide in a peaceful habitation**, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

John 14:15-18 ESV

- (15) “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- (16) And I will ask the Father, **and He will give you another Helper**, to be with you forever,
- (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
- (18) **“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

John 14:26-27 ESV

- (26) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
- (27) **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.** Not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

Hebrews 9:27-28 ESV

- (27) And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
- (28) so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.**