

Why was Jesus sent?

John 6:38-40 HCSB For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (39) This is the will of Him who sent Me: that I should lose none of those He has given Me but should raise them up on the last day. (40) For this is the will of My Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

The Bible says that the Son of God was both with God and yet was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. He set aside His rights and privileges of divine existence. He became flesh and took up residence among us. He came to us, but we didn't recognize Him for what He was.

Why? Why would He make such a sacrifice? To go from a glorious, heavenly existence to being trapped in meat; subject to sickness, to exhaustion, to the vagaries of human hormonal imbalances! Surely for Someone like Him that would be an exquisite form of torture?

There was nothing that we had that He needed. Since He created all things (including ourselves) we have nothing that we could offer that He does not already possess. There can only be one compelling reason. Jesus came to Earth because He loves us. Our single greatest need is eternal in its nature and only an eternal being could provide for that need.

We are not good. We are not righteous. We are not well-meaning. We are self-seeking, comfort loving and all too willing to break whatever rule we feel infringes upon our liberties. Compared to the holiness of God, we fall abysmally short. There is no turning over a new leaf for us. No reform could ever correct or compensate for the atrocities our sins have already perpetrated upon the Godhead. We do not need justice. We need mercy. We need an atoning sacrifice to the eternal and infinitely holy God.

Unfortunately, a crime against an infinite being requires an infinite punishment. There are only two ways that can be rectified. Either we endure eternal punishment or an eternal being takes our place. Jesus came to be that atoning sacrifice.

- **Matthew 20:28 HCSB** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life--a ransom for many."

The Trinity created the world, and made humanity in their image. They made us good and placed us in a perfect environment. There was only one rule. We could possess the entire universe but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was off limits to us. Why? Did God want to keep something good back for Himself? If He did, didn't He, as the Creator and Master of the Universe have that right? The fact is that He did not. He had already given us everything good. By keeping us from that fateful tree, He was keeping us from the knowledge of evil. Our ancestors rebelled and plunged the entire world into a dark maelstrom of sin.

He gave us the Torah, in order to teach us what true holiness and righteous living looked like. Trapped in their sinful natures, generation after generation proved woefully inadequate to the task of keeping the simple, clear rules that had been given to us by the Lord.

He sent us Judges and we only obeyed as long as the good ones were alive. He sent us prophets and we disregarded them. Many of them we abused. Some of them we killed. God kept trying to reach us, but our own hard-heartedness turned even the great gift of the Scriptures into a prison! The first half of Galatians 3:22 says, "the Scripture has imprisoned everything under sin's power..." Fortunately the second half says, "the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe."

What should we believe? Upon what facts should we place our faith?

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of those He has given Me but should raise them up on the last day. (40) For this is the will of My Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

- Luke 19:10 HCSB For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."
- 1 John 4:14-15 HCSB And we have seen and we testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. (15) Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God-- God remains in him and he in God.

We must believe that

- Jesus came from Heaven.
- He perfectly revealed the will of the Father in His life – eternal life for those who believe the Son.
- He will not lose any that place their faith in Him.
- He will raise them up on the last day.
- He came to seek and save the lost.
- He came to be our Savior.
- Whoever confesses the divinity of Jesus can have a unique relationship with the Godhead.

It was this love-empowered Good News that compelled Jesus to take on the form of a human; be implanted in the womb of a young Israeli virgin; live a poverty stricken life dedicated to healing and teaching; accept the abuse of the world; and ultimately become the perfect sacrificial Lamb.

One day Jesus spoke of this millennia-long effort that the Trinity had undertaken. He said,

- Matthew 21:33-41 HCSB "Listen to another parable: There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it to tenant farmers and went away. (34) When the grape harvest drew near, he sent his slaves to the farmers to collect his fruit. (35) But the farmers took his slaves, beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. (36) Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first group, and they did the same to them. (37) Finally, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. (38) "But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance!' (39) So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. (40) Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?" (41) "He will completely destroy those terrible men," they told Him, "and lease his vineyard to other farmers who will give him his produce at the harvest."

The Son of God's incarnation in Bethlehem was characterized by the prophet Isaiah in the following manner:

- Isaiah 42:3 HCSB He will not break a bruised reed, and He will not put out a smoldering wick; He will faithfully bring justice.

He perfectly fulfilled that mission. He became the perfect Lamb and atoned for our sins. That mission is over. The next time we see Him, the Apostle John prophetically describes Him thus:

- Revelation 19:11-16 HCSB Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. (12) His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knows except Himself. (13) He wore a robe stained with blood, and His name is called the Word of God. (14) The armies that were in heaven followed Him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. (15) From His mouth came a sharp sword, so that with it He might strike the nations. He will shepherd them with an

iron scepter. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. (16) And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

During this season, it is easy to get caught up in the sweetness of the image of a little baby in a manger. My suggestion is that you not lose sight of the fact that that mission is done and over with. My suggestion is that you look to the future while listening to King David's advice:

- [Psalms 2:6-12 HCSB](#) "I have consecrated My King on Zion, My holy mountain." (7) I will declare the LORD's decree: He said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have become Your Father. (8) Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance and the ends of the earth Your possession. (9) You will break them with a rod of iron; You will shatter them like pottery." (10) So now, kings, be wise; receive instruction, you judges of the earth. (11) Serve the LORD with reverential awe, and rejoice with trembling. (12) Pay homage to the Son, or He will be angry, and you will perish in your rebellion, for His anger may ignite at any moment. All those who take refuge in Him are happy.