

TEXT SERMONS

WHY DID JESUS COME?

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

A party was held years ago in NYC to celebrate the birth of a baby to a very wealthy socialite. As the socially elite arrived, their costly outer garments were taken by the maid and deposited in a side room. As the party progressed, the time came for the new-born baby to be displayed for the guests. The mother went to get the baby and the guests heard a scream and then silence. They found the mother lying on the floor in a faint, clasping in her arms the lifeless form of the infant. The maid had inadvertently tossed the topcoats of the guests upon the bed where the baby was, smothering it.

The commercialization of Christmas has pretty well smothered out the true meaning of Christmas for a large segment of our society. Jesus is buried beneath the hustle and bustle, the trimmings and tinsel of the celebration that should reveal Him, not conceal Him.

Such a singular and momentous event as the Incarnation of Jesus Christ should arouse many to ask “Why?”

- Why would the Creator of the universe want to become a creature?
- Why would deity want to become human?
- Why would Spirit want to become flesh?

Let us reflect once more upon why Jesus came. From His own lips, words plainly spoken, He tells us why He did not come as well as why He came. First, it would be helpful for us to have Him tell us the negative side of why He came – that is, why He did not come.

FOUR REASONS WHY HE DID NOT COME

(1) Matthew 5:17 – “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

The Jewish hierarchy accused Jesus of attempting to do away with the Law of Moses and the Prophets. He healed on the Sabbath, ate with publicans and sinners, acts which they condemned. The crowd that killed Stephen falsely accused Stephen saying, “We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.” (Acts 6:14)

But that was not the case at all. He was saying, “I came to fill up, to make complete, the Law and the Prophets.” He was saying that He did not come to abolish the customs of the people of Israel but to accomplish what the Law and Prophets could not do.

In His hometown synagogue in Nazareth He said He came to fulfill Scripture. We read, “So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was

written: *“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”* Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, *“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”* (Luke 4:21)

Afterward, they tried to kill Him, intending to cast Him over a precipice on the edge of town, but He escaped. The hometown young man Who was God, they treated badly!

(2) Matthew 9:13 – *“I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”*

The preceding verse says, *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”* (Matt. 9:12) Of course, *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* (Rom. 3:23) Sin sickness is the common disease of all. Only those who realize they need the Great Physician and come to Him will be healed.

The gospel insults human pride. Many there are who refuse to humble themselves and come to Jesus the Great Physician. Those who think they have no need of The Physician will remain diseased. Jesus said, *“You will not come to me, that you might have life.”* (John 5:40)

(3) Matthew 10:34 - *“I came not to send peace but a sword.”*

When Christ was born, the Hebrew nation was ruled by the Roman Government and the Jews expected the Messiah, when He came, to deliver them, set up His kingdom and usher in a reign of peace.

On the night of the nativity, the angels did indeed sing, *“On earth peace, good will toward men”* (Luke 2:14) and, had the people accepted Him, peace would have been theirs. However, *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”* (John 1:12)

The sword is an instrument of death. The sword divides. The coming of Christ into the world has caused a great conflict and division. Christ is not saying that His purpose in coming was to send a sword but that the result, the effect, of His coming would cause division. The sword was not the cause of His coming but the consequence of His coming.

(4) John 12:47 – *“I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.”*

Jesus Christ came into the world as Savior. The angel said to Joseph, concerning the virgin Mary, *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”* (Matt. 1:21)

This same Jesus will return to earth the second time as Judge. Acts 17:31 says that God *“has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”* The sinner who rejects the Savior and thinks that he is finished with that holy Person will have the shock of his life when he stands before the self-same Person Who is now his Judge!

The first coming of Christ was to “*seek and to save the lost.*” (Luke 19:10) He is still seeking and saving.

Summation

The above statements by the Lord Jesus Himself reveal what His purposes in coming were not. If He did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets; if He did not come to include the self-righteous in the call to repentance; if He did not come to send peace; if He did not come to judge the world, then why did He come?

God had many purposes for sending His Son into the world. One of those purposes was to meet the need of mankind. If God thought we needed:

More information, He would have sent an educator;
More technology, He would have sent a scientist;
More money, He would have sent an economist;
More pleasure, He would have sent an entertainer;
More government, He would have sent a politician.

But He did not send the above! Why, then, did Jesus come?

SEVEN REASONS WHY HE DID COME

Again, from the very lips of the Lord Jesus Christ we have stated clearly several reasons for which He came into the world. Let us briefly look at seven reasons that He gave for coming:

(1) Matthew 10:35-36 - “*For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.*” (This is a partial quotation from Micah 7:6)

This is a hard saying. I do not know of any prediction that is more true. No doubt that those reading this know of families that have both saved and unsaved members in them.

The prophet Amos wrote, “Can two walk together except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3) Of course, the answer is “they cannot walk together in unity.”

This is what Luke records that Jesus said on the same subject: “*Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided 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 her mother-in-law.*” (Luke 12:51-53)

(2) John 9:39-41 - “*Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.’ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, ‘What? Are we blind too?’ Jesus said, ‘If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.’*”

Jesus had already said, “*I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.*” (John 12:47)

Here in John 9 He is saying, "By my appearance on the scene, my coming, will have the effect that some will be saved and some will be more deeply condemned.

The setting for this statement was the occasion when Jesus healed the man born blind on the Sabbath and the Pharisees were super critical of Him. (John 9:1 ff) Jesus then changed the emphasis from physical healing to spiritual healing and hit the Pharisees right between the eyes with truth!

He said, "Some who are blind will see and some who think they see, those who are self-righteous and need no Physician; those who are proud, self-confident, and despisers of the truth, such as you Pharisees, will be more blind than ever before." The truth either makes alive or kills; opens eyes or blinds eyes.

(3) John 10:10 - "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Who is this One who has the audacity to claim to be able to give eternal life? There are only three possible explanations for Jesus:

- The first is that He was a liar. That He intentional deceived people to make them believe He was something that He was not. One big obstacle to this view of Jesus is the life He lived and the miracles He performed. The credibility of eye witnesses attesting to His changing water into wine to the evidence of His resurrection from the dead and every miracle in between indicates He was no charlatan.
- The second possibility is that He was sincere, but that He was deceived. The reasoning is that He was mad, suggesting He had some mental illness. The obstacle to this view is that there is not one indication from any surviving source that Jesus suffered from mental illness. In fact, the honest study of Scripture and other sources reveal Him in His right mind.
- If the first two explanation of the life of Christ are false, there is only one other possibility. That He truly was who He claimed to be, God. Jesus' claims to deity rule out the possibilities of him being only a great teacher, or even a prophet. If He is deity, then we owe our allegiance to Him.

His absolute claims are invitations to enjoy fullness of God's blessing. God declares that the sinner is "*dead in trespasses and sins*" (Eph. 2:1) and that the sinner can only have life through the Lord Jesus Christ. "*He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*" (I John 5:12)

(4) John 12:27 - ".... for this purpose I came to this hour." He continued, "*And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.*" *This He said, signifying by what death He would die.*" (John 12:32-33) It was the hour for which he had been born.

Illust. I know a lady who displays a manger scene on her front lawn each Christmas. Behind

the manger she has a cross. Neighbors have asked her, "Why the cross in a manger scene?" She then explains why Christ came – He came to the cradle on the way to the cross to die for the sins of mankind.

(5) John 12:46 - "I am come a light into the world...."

Two of the greatest needs of humans are Life and Light. Jesus meets both of those needs. He is Life (John 14:6) and He is Light – "*The Light of the world*" (John 9:5; 12:46).

- The sinner has a dark birth – born in sin;
- They have a dark life - "*The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at which they stumble.*" (Prov.4:19)
- They have a dark death – "*Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come."*" (John 8:21)
- They have a dark eternity – "*....outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*" (Matt. 22:13)

"Come to the light, 'Tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind but now I can see,
The Light of the world is Jesus."

(6) Hebrews 10:5-7 - " Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.'"

Note the words: "*In the volume of the book it is written of Me.*" The Old Testament prophesied of the coming and suffering of the Messiah. Isaiah 53 is one of the classic portions on the Suffering Servant of Jehovah. Jesus said, "*For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.*" (John 5:46)

Jesus came to do the will of the Father which was to be the one final, supreme sacrifice for sin forever. Therefore, He took a body, the incarnation, and gave that body on the altar of Calvary as the only satisfactory sacrifice for sin. In accomplishing redemption He did the will of the Father. I am glad He came, aren't you?

(7) John 18:37 – "Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Jesus came as Truth. John the Baptist said, pointing with the index finger of specificity, "Behold! The Lamb of God!" (John 1:29) He could also have said, "Behold! The Truth!" He not only spoke Truth, He was Truth personified - Truth walking about in sandals.

Verse 38 continues: "*Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."*

Pilate asked, "What is truth?" That was the wrong question. He should have asked, "Who is Truth!" Jesus Christ is God the Way, God the Truth and God the Life. Pilate came face to face with Truth and asked the question, "What is truth?" How blind! He turned his back upon the Truth for we are told that he "*Went out.*" What will you do with Jesus, The Truth?

Conclusion

Who He is had everything to do with why He came. Think anew of who He is: He was born of a virgin but lived before He was born. The Infinite became the Infant, the Great Creator became the Savior; The Son of God became the Son of man. He came out of eternity into time, out of the Ivory Palaces into a stable, out of a sinless world into a sinful world.

In infancy He startled a king, in boyhood He puzzled Doctors of Law and in manhood He healed without medicine. His death was vicious, vital, vicarious and victorious. In His resurrection He was a Conqueror, in His ascension He was a King, in His intercession He is the High Priest. Because of Him heaven will never be empty; because of Him hell will never be full!

The world has not seen the last of Him – He will return. For those in Christ it will be a day without a sunset; for those out of Christ it will be a night without a dawn. He shall reign triumphant as King of kings and Lord of lords and of His kingdom there shall be no end!

Illust. Do you remember being in a Christmas play when you were a child? I heard about a Christmas play in a church that sent an unexpected message to the audience. The young people were presenting the traditional Christmas manger scene with Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, surrounded by the shepherds and a few animals.

All during the play, there was a spotlight on the baby Jesus in the manger. The director of the play had planned to end the play by turning out all the other lights on the stage except the spotlight on the baby Jesus. At the point when the narrator was to say, "He is the Light of the world!" the person in charge of the lighting was supposed to turn off all other lights leaving the spot light on the babe in the manger. Instead, the person in charge of the lights turned off the spotlight! A young boy in the audience immediately shouted, "You turned off Jesus!"

Many celebrate Christmas in such a manner that they really "turn off Jesus!" Rather than articulating the true meaning of Christmas, the coming of the Savior, they accentuate the world's concept of a holiday instead of a holyday. Knowing why He came should dictate how we celebrate! "He became what we are that he might make us what He is." (Athanasius)

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