

Why Jesus came to Earth

This morning's message is brief and is to bring us to baptism. The gospel is preached. People hear. And some are granted repentance leading them away from their sins and toward the Lord Jesus Christ. These people put their confidence in Christ then gladly obey Him first by getting baptized and then submitting to Him all the days of their lives as their Lord and Savior. They are members of biblical local churches loving and serving one another. And Christ rules over these people assuring them of their salvation and ensuring their maturation. These are God's people. And in the end, these people get to live in glory with their glorious God in glorified bodies amid glorious surroundings with others in the same state. We are about to witness Paul Schindler going public with his faith in Christ through water baptism. Anticipation fills this room.

But before we get there, I want us to think together over how Paul got here. And in pondering this process I want you to ask yourself the question, "where am I in this process; the process of hearing the gospel, believing the gospel and then obeying the gospel through repentance, baptism, church membership and lifelong serving the gospel to others.

And so, to do this I will preach the gospel and urge you to believe the gospel. Pastor Mark will then take over and give us a few words over the meaning of baptism. He then will baptize Paul. It's here that we will get to see what the beginning of obeying the gospel looks like.

Let's get started by looking at the first promise in the New Testament¹. Matthew 1:21.

Matthew 1:21 is found in a section that details how Jesus came to earth and why he did so. In v.1-17 we come across Jesus' genealogy. This section connects the beginning and the end of the Old Testament to Jesus Christ. In other words, the Old Testament with all its histories, political intrigue, deaths and births, calamities and celebrations, laws and ceremonies; everything is in one way or another about the Lord Jesus Christ. And now, according to verse 18, he's on the scene. He comes to earth.

Verses 18-21 pick up the story by talking about the virgin birth. Jesus did not have a biological earthly father. His mother was conceived not by man but by God. God the Father sent God the Son into this world through the virgin birth. Jesus is the God/Man. But now the question - why? Why did Jesus come to earth? Take a listen as I read our text for this morning; Matt.1:21.

"She [Mary] will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins".

Why did Jesus come to us? We will look at this sentence to see that Jesus came to Earth because of a **problem**, he came to Earth for His **people** and he came to Earth with a **promise**. We will take these observations in reverse order.

(The points are remembered using three words; Problem. People. Promise.)

¹ Daryl Wingerd, an elder of Christ Fellowship located in Kansas City, MO. Drew my attention to this verse back in 2005.

Gospel

First, Jesus came because of the problem

The statement “He will save His people **from their sins**” gives us a clear statement over what our problem is. “From our sins” tells us that our basic and most profound problem every human has is sin. The effects of sin (breaking up of relationships, breaking down of bodies and properties, breaking out in wars); the effects of sin are awful. But the problem we all face needs to be faced. It is sin. It is our rebellion against the gracious creator of the Universe. We see it in Gen.3 as our parents Adam and Eve thought they could make life work apart from God. This sin is hereditary now and is passed down from Adam to the human race. And this is our problem (Rom.5).

The problem of sin can be viewed from two perspectives; an objective one (how God sees it) and a subjective one (how we experience it).

When the Bible talks about sin in an objective way it refers to how God views it. Listen to the Bible’s way of saying this. “[We are] by nature children of wrath” (Eph.2:3). We have a sinful nature. And this nature is under God’s wrath. The Bible says, “Whoever believes in the Son of God has eternal life. But whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God remains on him” (Jn.3:36). The problem you and I face is outside us. It is outside our control. God simply is angry with sin and will punish the sinner with fierce eternal justice. Trying to do good, striving to please people, praying more, giving more, stopping more, so on and so on does NOT remove the big black cloud ready to break upon you in fierce justice due to sin. This is the first way we understand the Bible’s teaching on our problem.

The second way the Bible views sin is subjective. It’s how we experience it. You see, apart from God’s rescue, we have a love affair with sin (Jn.3:19). Whether it’s in the form of self-reliance that says, “I’ll do okay by myself” or it’s in the form of self-justification that says, “I’m doing okay by myself” – either way self loves self and not God. And we cannot liberate ourselves from this prison. We need the Liberator; the Savior.

So the problem is sin. And sin resides in all of us (Rom.6). But now the question is: who gets God’s saving, rescuing grace? Everyone? Those who work hard at getting God’s attention? No. The Bible teaches that His people get His saving grace. And this we see in the next part of the sentence.

Second, Jesus came for His People

Who are “His people”? The Bible says, “He chose [his people] in Him before the foundation of the World... (Eph.1:4). And these people are “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Rev.5:9). His people are his. He owns them. He possesses them. He had them in His heart before they were born, before they ever did anything good or bad (Rom.9:6-13). This is one of the clear and wonderful mysteries of the Bible. He loves His people because He loves His people (Deut.7:6-8). They are not His people because they are morally upright and will be good for His team. Oh, what a humbling and freeing truth to know that God had his people in mind before He created the world. There is a group down through history and into the present day that does nothing to gain God’s saving grace. And yet, for God’s purposes He sent His son into this world to provide the solution to their deepest problem; sin.

His people are His treasured possession out of all the peoples of the world. And Christ came into this world for these people; namely His people.

Christ came with the Promise

So Matt.1:21 as a summary sentence of good news tells us why Christ came into this world. We saw that He came because of the problem. That problem is sin. Second, we notice that he came for His people. These people are his chosen people. Finally we see Christ came with the promise. HE WILL SAVE his people from their sins.

The name Jesus means “the LORD saves”. Jesus did not come to make it likely for people to get saved. He came to save. Jesus did not come to make it more probable that people will choose God over sin. Jesus did not come to raise the odds for people to find their way to heaven. No. The Bible says, “He will save”. Jesus accomplishes what He sets out to do. And this is how He did it.

Hear the Bible and believe.

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...” (1Cor.15:3)

“He gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father” (Gal.1:4)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (Jn.3:16)

“Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace and with his stripes we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way. And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isa.53:5-6)

“He who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things” (Rom.8:32)

“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified”
(heb.10:14)

“The son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mk.10:45)

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Eph.5:25)

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, “cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” (Gal.3:13)

O friends, we see on the screen a verse summarizing the gospel. Christ came to Earth because His people have a problem. Do you believe this diagnosis? Christ came to Earth for His people. Do you sense your heart desiring Christ and longing for the gospel? And Christ came to Earth with a promise – to save His people. Do you believe that He has done so by dying on the cross for your sins and was raised for your righteousness?

(press the points upon their hearts with a heartfelt plea to come to Christ)

Baptism

Pastor Mark Schindler baptizing Paul Schindler.