

Why Did God Send Us Jesus? (subtitle: Jesus the Lamb of God)

John 3:16 (New American Standard Bible)

*“For **God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son**, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.”*

1 John 3:16 (New American Standard Bible)

*“**We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us**; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters.”*

Introduction

Ask Congregation to read John 3:16 one more time with me.

Why do we give gifts to our children (birthday, Christmas)? Because we love them, right? Why did God give us His greatest gift to humanity? Why did He send us Jesus in the first place? The answer is the same: *Because He loves us*. As far as His gift to humanity, it is not just any gift, but the best gift ever. The gift that is beneficial to everyone not only physically but spiritually, not just temporally but eternally good. That gift is called Jesus. When you unwrap the gift, you will find salvation and eternal life in it. This gift of salvation comes only through Jesus the Son of God. This gift of eternal life is for everyone who accepts Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

God brilliantly came up with His gift idea before the foundation of the world and first announced the arrival of the Savior to the shepherds in the field 2,000 years ago in Judea: *The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been **born for you a Savior**, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11).* This is what Christmas is all about. It is the celebration of *the Savior’s birth for us the sinners*.

This morning, I invite you to ponder with me the reason why God sent Jesus the Messiah to us. Based on the Scriptures, I am going to unpack the reason why Jesus came to earth in three ways.

Content

Let me take you back to the day when Christ declared His mission on earth. He was in the synagogue and read Isaiah 61:1: *“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;**¹⁹ **To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord**" (Luke 4:18-19, NKJV). He clearly stated His mission on earth that day. Later, John the Apostle summed up Christ's mission in one sentence: *The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.* You listen to him yourself.

1. In his first letter, John wrote, "*the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil***" (1 John 3:8).

By the way, what are the works of the devil among people? Let me tell a few examples: first, the devil keeps the good news from the poor (we all know how the world treats the poor folks). Christ, however, brings good news to the poor. Jesus declares in His Sermon on the Mount, saying, "*Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God*" (Luke 6:20). The devil despises the poor in the earthly kingdom, but Christ elevates the poor to the citizenship of God's Kingdom. Next, the devil keeps people captives in their sin and in the fear of death. Christ, however, releases them from the bondage of sin and death. Thirdly, the devil oppresses people with anxiety, fear, distress, depression, hate, even with infirmity. Christ heals the sick and sets the oppressed free. Remember Christ spent one third of His ministry time casting out the evil spirits, healing the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, opening the ears of the deaf? Christ came to establish His kingdom on earth. The only way to do it is to destroy the devil's kingdom first. Christ's Kingdom forever stands. The devil's kingdom has to go, and it has no chance against God's kingdom. Listen to what Christ says, "*The gates of hell shall not prevail against*" the Church of Christ (Matthew 16:18, KJV). Christ came to destroy the works of the devil. That leads us to the second verse. John 10:10.

2. In John 10:10, Jesus said, "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly.***" The devil practices sin, lies, and deception. He tempts, persecutes, steals, destroys, and kills us (John 10:10). He is the father of all lies. Jesus gives us an abundant life (zoe--in Greek). He leads us into truth. He is true forever. He never lies to us. He never tempts us. He never steals our happiness. He never destroys us or kills us. The devil enslaves us. Christ frees us.

No slave can have an abundant and free life. Only free man can. By the way, the abundant life Christ gives is much more than being showered with material blessings such as physical health, billion dollars in the bank, and living in a mansion. The abundant life in Christ is a life that is in sync with God and His will. It is the life that gives meaning and purpose for

us to live on. It is the life that enriches the lives of others as well. It is the life that we lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. ***“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters”*** (1 John 3:16).

Compare the life before and after we became a believer. Is there any difference between the two lives? Yes, definitely. In my own life, there’s a night and day difference. My life THEN, the life before Christianity, was aimless and self-centered following my own interests, desires and lusts. I was in darkness. Prone to sin, I would suffer the consequences such as shame and guilt. I had no hope of resurrection. I had no light or truth that guide me. But my life NOW, the life after I became a believer in Christ, is different. While I was sitting in darkness, Christ the light shone onto me (Micah 7:8). Christ came into my life and transformed me (and still does). He leads me now in the paths of righteousness, light, life, and love. He gives me life’s meaning and purpose. He assures me with eternal hope of resurrection.

Now, think of your own life. Do you see any difference between your life THEN and NOW? Do you live a life that is abundant in love, joy, peace, contentment, and self-control? Do you have life’s purpose and meaning? Do you know where you are going? If you don’t, there are only two possibilities: either you are ignorant of His promise, or have not claimed His promise yet (like you have a check in your hand, yet you never cash it out!). Some of you still allow the devil to cheat on you, steal your happiness and health, destroy you, and even kill you! Stop that in the name of Jesus! Today! Right now! Amen. Christ came to give us an abundant life. Finally,

3. In Mark 10:45, Christ says about the reason why He came to earth: *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”* Christ came to us not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

What’s the meaning of ‘ransom’ here? *“A ransom is something that is paid to provide for the release of someone who is held captive. Jesus paid our ransom to free us from sin, death, and hell”* (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-pay-ransom.html>)

It was no coincidence when John the Baptist called Jesus twice, *the Lamb of God*. *“The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him, and *said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29, 1:36). Jesus came as the sacrificial Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world, including yours and mine.

I hope by now you can see the whole picture about Christ’s coming. Many of us still hold the wrong image of Jesus as a cute little baby to cuddle and admire, saying, “How cute

the little baby Jesus!” That’s what many a folk do in the world especially those who don’t believe in Jesus. That’s what the devil wants us to do: to keep Jesus as *a cute little baby* in our heart. *The vulnerable baby who even needs protection from us!*

Did you know that even some Jewish folks, who are forbidden to mention the name of Jesus, love to sing *the Silent Night Holy Night*, only the first verse, though! *How pretty and soothing the words and the music are*, they say! Except they all fail to see the true Jesus who came to save us from our sins!

Let me put my sermon points together in one sentence. 2000 years ago, God sent us Jesus to destroy the works of the devil, that is, to save us from sin. Jesus gave His life as a ransom to pay the wages of our sins once and for all on the cross! He came as the Lamb of God to redeem us from our sins once and for all. That’s what Christmas is all about!

Conclusion

As much as we enjoy the festivity of Christmas season, let us not forget the reason why God sent Jesus to us. Let us not forget why His name is Jesus, “the Lord saves.” If we forget, then we are no different from the world who don’t know Jesus and who deny Jesus yet still celebrate Christmas. I was one of them. In my first 17 years of life, every year I celebrated Christmas for my own happiness. No Christ was in my *Christ-mas*. My *Christ-mas* had nothing to do with *Christ*. My Christmas was a *gift-mas*. It was a *fun-mas*. It was a *party-mas*. It was a *food-mas*. It was a *Santa-mas*. Nothing wrong with them, you may say. But what good is it if we miss the main point while having all the rest?

The other day, at my Bible study at the Residence Assisted Living Center, we read Jesus’ word to His disciples, “*For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what could a person give in exchange for his soul?* (Mark 8:36-37). With Christ, we can have all, but without Christ, we lose them all. By missing the focal point of Christmas, by rejecting Christ in Christmas, we may miss the whole thing. As C. S. Lewis said: “*Does it matter to a man dying in a desert, by which choice of route he missed the only well?* (How to Pray, p. 103).

Amen.

