

Third Year of Ministry Draws to a Close

Objective: Given Matthew 19:16-20:34; Mark 10:17-52; Luke 18:18-19:10 the learner **SHALL** learn that Jesus has come to earth for many different reasons.

Introduction

- We are coming to the end Jesus' third year of ministry. Jesus is on the road to Jerusalem. Next week we look at the Triumphal Entry – which is the start of the last week of Jesus' life on the earth.
- We are also coming to a very important part of Jesus' ministry on the earth. In fact 29% of Matt. (8/28 = 29%); 38% of Mark (6/16), 25% of Luke (6/24), an amazingly 48% of John (10/21) deal with the last week of Jesus' life and his resurrection. This last week was 0.06% of his time on earth, but 33% (30/89) of what was written about Jesus.
- We have to ask ourselves the question: **Why did Jesus come to the earth?** There were a number of reasons that Jesus came to the earth of which coming to die for our sins was a major reason, but not the only reason he came. The passages before us present seven reasons why he came to the earth...

Lesson

- **[CLICK] Purpose #1** – Jesus came to fulfill prophecy
 - **Luke 18:31** *And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished...*
 - We have seen prophecies about Jesus' birth and ministry. But at that time in his ministry some prophecies still needed to be fulfilled. Here are two:
 - **[CLICK] Isa 53:3** *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*
 - **[CLICK] Zech 9:9** *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*
 - **So what?** **[CLICK]** We know that Jesus is the **promised Messiah** for he fulfills prophecies, he was not merely a man, but the Son of God that came according to the foreknowledge and plans of God the Father
 - **What else?** **[CLICK]** We can **trust** in Jesus for what He says and what He does **fulfills the will of God.**
- **[CLICK] Purpose #2** – Jesus came to die
 - **Luke 18:32-34** *... For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.*
 - Twice before in Matt. 16:21 and Matt. 17:22, 23 Jesus predicted his death.
 - **Question:** What was the disciples' reaction?
 - **[CLICK] Matt. 16:22** *And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”*
 - **Matt. 17:22b** *And they were greatly distressed.*
 - Three times they heard the prediction and three times they didn't understand. Why? They believed that the Messiah was going to come to set them free from the Romans and be the conquering king. They didn't see him as the humble servant who came to serve and die for their sins. To say it nicely would be to say they were confused, but actually they were clueless.
 - In their defense the verse says that it was “*hidden from them*” and “*they did not grasp what was said*” and so it wasn't their fault they didn't understand, but part of God's plan. They would finally understand after the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

- **So what?** Jesus came to **die for all of us**. He came to **die for me** and He came to **die for you**.
- **[CLICK] 1 Timothy 1:15** "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."
- **[CLICK] Purpose #3** – Jesus came to call sinners to repentance
 - **Matt. 19:16** *And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"*
 - **Question:** What problem did the young man have? He had done many good deeds, but something was missing. He realized that he had done all he could, but he hadn't done enough.
 - Jesus told him to follow the commandments and the young man said that he had, then Jesus said to him...
 - **[CLICK] Matt. 19:20-21** *The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*
 - **Question:** What was the real problem that the young man had? He was not fully devoted to God and His ways. His money and his possession were more important to him than following God and doing what God wanted him to do. He was self-centered and not God-centered.
 - **[CLICK] Matt. 6:19-24** *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*
 - In our day is it also hard for those who have much money to follow God, for they have relied on themselves and their money and not on God to solve the problems they have. Having a lot of money is not the real problem. The real problem is what/who you are trusting. Is it self or God? You cannot trust in both or serve both.
 - Jesus knew that the young rich man needed to realize he was a sinner and that he needed to repent.
 - **So what?** Jesus has called all sinners to repent and we need to repent and turn to Jesus and realize we cannot do it all on our own. Jesus is the only one that can deal with our sin problem, but we have to turn to Him and trust Him to deal with it.
- **[CLICK] Purpose #4** – Jesus came to teach secrets of the kingdom of heaven
 - **Matt. 13:10-11** *Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*
 - In the previous passage Peter had claimed that he and the disciples had left everything to follow Jesus. Jesus said at the end...
 - **[CLICK] Matt. 19:29-30** *And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*
 - Maybe the disciples were concerned about the order in which they became disciples. We know that they cared about who would be important in the kingdom. What Jesus tells them just because you are first doesn't necessary give priority or more rewards.
 - Jesus then tells a parable about the **Laborers in the Vineyard**. The master hired laborers over the day. Some worked all day, some half the day, and finally some only the last hour of the day. The master paid them in the reverse order of the time they were hired.
 - They were all paid the same amount. Then Jesus said...

- [CLICK] **Matt. 20:10-12** *Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'*
- The master says he had done them no wrong and paid them what they agreed to. (That never happens to us right?) They really didn't think it was fair what the master had done. Jesus then concludes the parable...
- [CLICK] **Matt. 20:15-16** *Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity? So the last will be first, and the first last."*
- **So what is the point of parable?** God can sovereignly do what He wants to do. God does no wrong. God has our best interests at heart. He is worthy to be trusted. He can hand out the rewards He wants to.
- [CLICK] **Purpose #5** – Jesus came to minister to others
 - James and John (and their mother) came before Jesus to ask him a request. They wanted to sit on each side of Jesus when Jesus came into His glory. The problem? They wanted the places of honor. They wanted to be treated 'special'. Jesus asked them...
 - [CLICK] **Mark 10:38** *Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"*
 - Jesus told them they would go through what Jesus was going through (including suffering and death) but it was not His right to assign who sat next to him and then He states...
 - [CLICK] **Matt. 10:45** *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
 - One of Jesus' purposes was to **serve mankind**. He did not come to rule. He did not come to conquer. He came to take on the form of man and become man. He came to live the perfect life, to fulfill righteousness and then to give His life as a ransom, as the **payment**, for all mankind. The purpose:
 - [CLICK] **Rom. 5:1-2** *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
 - [CLICK] **Eph 2:13-15** *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.*
 - [CLICK] **Phil 2:5-8** *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*
 - **So what?** Jesus came for us to serve us. We have **peace** with God through Jesus' service to us – by His death on the cross and His resurrection three days later. By his service and His death we have been **brought near** to God. Jesus came to be a servant, a suffering servant.
- [CLICK] **Purpose #6** – Jesus came to heal those in need
 - When John's disciples came to ask Jesus who He was he answered them and said...
 - [CLICK] **Matt 11:3-5** *...And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.*
 - Jesus was quoting from Isaiah about what the Messiah would do and be known for. He would help those in need: He would give **sight** to the blind, heal **lepers**, let the deaf **hear**, and **raise** the dead.

- The Messiah would be known as one who had **power over nature**. He had the power to do extraordinary things. Part of the credentials of the Messiah would be His ability to do miracles. The Messiah could be identified by his power over the aliments of man and help those in need.
- Jesus didn't heal everyone but he healed those who acknowledged Him as Messiah and trusted in Him to be healed. In Matt. 20 Jesus is approached by a couple of blind men.
- [CLICK] **Matt. 20:29-30** *And as they went out of Jericho, a great crowd followed him. And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!"*
- Notice that Jesus always healed those who had a need. He healed those who acknowledged He was the Messiah. When the blind men approached Jesus they called Him the Son of David, the title of Messiah. They saw Jesus as the **Messiah** and believed He was the **Messiah** – the promised one from God.
- [CLICK] **Matt. 20:31** *The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be silent, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!"*
- The crowds rebuked the blind men, but they refused to listen. They continued to call out to the Messiah. They asked Him to have mercy on them and help them out. Jesus then said...
- [CLICK] **Matt. 20:32-34** *And stopping, Jesus called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.*
- Jesus healed them based upon their confession of faith. The healing was immediate and **followed** Jesus. They became disciples.
- **So what?** Jesus healed those who acknowledged Him as Messiah. He came to heal and show Himself as Messiah. Jesus came to drive people, everyone He met, to make a decision about Jesus. Was He the Messiah? Was He sent from God? Was He a person you could put your trust in?

- [CLICK] **Purpose #7** – Jesus came to seek the lost
 - When Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem He passed through Jericho. Large crowds were following Jesus and it was hard to see Jesus when you are short (height challenged)...
 - [CLICK] **Luke 19:1-4** *He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.*
 - Zacchaeus had a strong desire to see Jesus, but he couldn't, and he figured out a way to see Jesus. He was not a desirable type of person to be around: he was a tax collector and he was rich. Not exactly two characteristics to endear him with the general population.
 - [CLICK] **Luke 19:5-6** *And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.*
 - Jesus upon seeing Zacchaeus, Jesus approached him and indicated that He wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus.
 - **Question:** Why would He do this? It wasn't primarily to get a meal, but it was an opportunity to spend time with someone who was lost, even if it was someone despised by the Pharisees and the religious elite.
 - [CLICK] **Luke 19:8-9** *And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.*

- Jesus went out of His way to approach Zacchaeus and spend some significant quality time with Him. Jesus always went out of His way to spend time with those around Him. He spent time with people who had a need and Zacchaeus needed Jesus.
- Zacchaeus acknowledged Him as Lord and confessed his sin and offered restitution for those he had defrauded. A huge step for a tax collector at that time who generally grabbed whatever they could. He turned around, he repented, and he was a changed man.
- **Question:** Jesus' response? Salvation came to Zacchaeus. Another Jew was saved!
- **So what?** Jesus came to aggressively seek those needed Him. Zacchaeus was one of those who accepted His claim and salvation was the result.
- Conclusions:
- **Question:** What have we learned in this lecture?
 - **[CLICK]** Jesus had many reasons why He came to earth:
 1. Jesus came to fulfill prophecy
 2. Jesus came to die
 3. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance
 4. Jesus came to teach secrets of the kingdom of heaven
 5. Jesus came to minister to others
 6. Jesus came to heal those in need
 7. Jesus came to seek the lost
 - **Question:** What do all these mean to me?
 - **[CLICK]** We **acknowledge** that in coming to earth Jesus **fulfilled** the will of God.
 - We **repent** of our sins and turn to Jesus for we cannot **save** ourselves.
 - We are **confident** that God is in **control** of whatever happens in our lives.
 - We **give thanks** for Jesus' gift of **reconciling** us to God.
 - We **praise** Jesus for His power when He **heals**.
 - We **rejoice** that Jesus came to **seek** us when we were lost.