**Why did Jesus come to Earth**?

Sermon 31.03.2019 NP2c Pastor Stephan P Dyer

One answer may be*,* “To show people how to avoid hell and enter heaven.”

While this was a part of His earthly agenda, we tend to undervalue the **actual reason** of Jesus’s ministry message when we focus only on the future forgetting to focus on the present.

The here and now. The moment. NOW.

We do this all the time. We seem to focus on what we are going to do tomorrow or what we did last week**…**

***expand on this – about how rarely we actually live in the now***

**But what about now?**

When Jesus speaks of the kingdom of heaven in the Gospels, He envisioned God’s kingdom rule and reign in the present day on Earth,

not just a day when believers would be introduced into the spiritual realm.

Sadly, this misunderstanding has blinded believers from experiencing the “abundant life” that Jesus promised

**John 10:10 New International Version (NIV)**

**10**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.

By focusing on one small part of our salvation, we, tend to minimize other parts of our Christian Life.

**If** **justification**

*which means* *(the action of declaring or making righteous in the* *sight of God)*

**is the only part of our salvation experience, we miss the joy and purpose of sanctification.**

*Which means* (*the act or process of acquiring sanctity, of being made or becoming holy. ... To****sanctify****is to literally "set apart for particular use in a special purpose or work and to make holy or sacred.")*

***Repeat without the meaning clause***

**We are saved not just from the world, but for the world.**

**We are Saved to serve**

If the purpose of Christianity were, just to enter heaven, Jesus would not have left us on Earth after He saved us.

We would have been raptured without a second to spare, to enjoy eternity with Him.

**The Kingdom of Heaven is greater than just achieving a life of eternity.**

You have heard people say “When you’re so heavenly minded, you can become no earthly good.”

This is what happens when we are **too focused** on where we are going, rather than why we are here.

When we are so self-absorbed, that we only focus on our own eternal rewards in heaven. WE lose sight of our calling on Earth.

Jesus gave us a **Commission** to **reproduce** followers of Him.

It’s called the **Great Co-Mission** and there is a reason its called that.

**God expects our involvement**.

The reason He did not take us up to heaven the moment we were born again is that there is work to be done.

WE were saved not just **from the world**, but **for the world**.

WE were saved **to serve**.

**We need to introduce other people to a life of discipleship.**

Evangelists of today move people toward making a decision to **conversion.**

Jesus and His disciples focused on making **disciples**.

New birth is necessary to move from a life of eternal death to a LIFE ever after, **but it does not end there**.

 The Apostle Paul would not have understood the invitations issued at the conclusion of many Evangelistic or Church service’s today.

Raise a hand, those who are saved (so the speaker gets an idea of who he is preaching to). Walk up the aisle for healing or prayer, say a prayer, or repeat after me, the conversion prayer,

This would all have been foreign concepts to the apostle.

Sadly, sometimes we have reduced salvation to a transaction where if sinners provide the correct answers to a mental, spiritual questionnaire and say “Amen” at the right spots, we pronounce they are saved with nothing else required of them.

Whether they follow Jesus after saying this prayer is **optional**.

Whether they enjoy the blessings of the kingdom is **up to them**.

Whether they replicate their lives into the lives of others is **a choice..**

Sometimes we fail to see that salvation in Christ starts from a **confession to follow Jesus**

**Jesus expects so much more**;

He **commands** so much more.

Today spiritual disciplines in the Christian life become, **recommended but not required activities.**

Obedience seems to be optional,

reading the [**Bible**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/) is optional,

and memorizing Scripture is optional.

Praying and fasting are optional as well.

Whether one shares the gospel with a lost person is merely a choice made by the Christian nowadays.

**Surely this can’t be what Jesus envisioned** when He **commanded** His followers to **“make disciples of all nations”?**

We have discussed this before. Let’s take another look**.**

**Matthew 28:16-20** English Standard Version (ESV)

The Great Commission

**16**Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

**17**And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

**18**And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**19**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them inthe name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**20**teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you **always, to the end of the age**.”

Jesus was **VERY CLEAR** on this instruction.

**He starts by explaining that**

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him..Jesus explains his **authority**

**After stating that fact He says –**

**19**Go therefore and make **disciples** of all nations, **Instruction #1**

**Then Instruction #2**

**baptizing** them inthe name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**, Notice 3 not 2 here all individual persons

**Then instruction #3** **20teaching** them to **observe** all that I have What?? **commanded you**

These are very clear instructions, don’t you think?

However, they are not always obeyed.

Lets NOT be disobedient as disobedience in the spiritual realm is **sin.**

**We have a job to do**… let’s do it..

we will be blessed, The people we disciple will be blessed, God will be blessed.

The job of the Church (Believers) is to disciple and bring people to this place. To be one with us in the Kingdom

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31 New International Version (NIV)**

**Unity and Diversity in the Body**

**12**Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

**13**For we were all baptized by **one Spirit** so as to form **one body**—whether Jews or Gentiles, *New Zealander, Philipina, Maori,* slave or free—and we were all given the **one Spirit** to drink.

**14**Even so the body is not made up of one part but of **many**.

**15**Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

**16**And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

**17**If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

**18**But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

**19**If they were all one part, where would the body be?

**20**As it is, there are **many parts**, **but one body**.

**21**The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”

**22**On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

**23**and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,

**24**while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

**25**so that there should be **no division** in **the body**, but that its parts should have **equal concern** for each other.

**26**If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

**27**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

**28**And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

**29**Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

**30**Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A12-31&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28665b)]? Do all interpret?

**31**Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

**It is important that we belong to a body, a church as**

**WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY**

For many years, we have preached half the gospel by encouraging people to be saved ***from***something—namely sin, wrath, damnation, and eternal punishment—and neglected the fact that we’re saved *for*something.

**We are saved to serve. Let’s go out and get some disciples.**

Ill teach more on discipleship next time

**Finish**

**Prayer.**

Father thank you that **You** through the **Holy Spirit** in our lives have again **drawn us** to this place, Your Church. The New Plymouth Christian Church. NP2c.

Help us Father to understand **Your** truth. Keep us Christ Centered and Bible based.

Help us to become **available** to disciple those who come across our path’s, Those that You have **drawn** to us Lord.

Give us the **words to speak** and **a heart to accept** even those that we would normally move away from.

Lord make us aware of the **power** You gave us at our spiritual **re birth**.

Bless You Father, Bless You Jesus and Bless You Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**