

OUR EXAMPLE

I'd like to share a few thoughts and quite a few scriptures with you.

In the last verse of John's gospel, he said if everything that Jesus did was written in detail, the whole world would not be able to contain it.

With my the limited knowledge of God, and His kingdom, I would like to take a few minutes and share a three aspects of Christ's coming that many Christians are unaware of.

If you ask the average person, Christian or non-Christian, what do you know about Jesus Christ? Almost all will say that he died on a cross for our sins.

There is plenty of historical data that it happened, and the church has been telling people that for generations.

I'd like to look at some scriptures to clarify why he came and what he came to accomplish.

Firstly, He came to reveal the Father and His love for mankind.

God is spirit, although He is not visible to our senses, He is more real than anything that we can see.

John 1.1 states,

In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by him, and apart from him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Verse 14

And the word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, glory of the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth.

I'll read Verse 18 out of the Amplified version. It's more descriptive.

No man has ever seen God at any time, the only unique son, the only begotten of God, who is in the intimate presence of his Father, He has revealed Him and brought him out where he can be seen, He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known.

In John 15.9 Jesus said,

He who has seen Me has seen the Father.

Jesus made the invisible, supernatural, creator of the universe visible in our natural realm.

He also revealed God's incredible love for mankind.

John 17.22 amp

I have given to them the glory and honor which you have given me, that they may be one even as We are one,

I in them and you in me, in order that they may become one and perfectly united, that the world may know and definitely recognize that you sent me and you have loved them even as you have loved me.

God's incredible love for man was the motivation for the incredible, supernatural work of redeeming us back into His family and making us citizens of His Kingdom.

Let's look at another aspect of Christ's coming.

Secondly, He came to establish the Kingdom of God and become the way for mankind to enter and be a part of it.

In Matt 4.17 it states that

Jesus preached everywhere, repent, because the kingdom of God is here.

Everyone got the same word, repent, regardless of their station or status in life. Repent of what? Repent of the entire corrupt nature that we inherited from Adam and Eve, because what we were created for by God is here. The kingdom of God.

Many will say, I thought the gospel was all about getting saved and going to heaven?

Let me ask a question. Do you know how many times the kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned in the New Testament? I counted 118.

Do you know how many times being born again is mentioned in the New Testament? Only once. It was a private conversation with Nicodemus, probably in the middle of the night.

Let's look at the scripture to see the text of that conversation.

John chapter 3 verse 3, Jesus said, truly, truly, I say to you unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.

In verse 5 Jesus said, truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh, is flesh, that which is born of the spirit, is spirit.

He also invited all men to become citizens of His kingdom.

John 1.12

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name, who were born not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God

God's plan was to recreate man back to his original created state, and reconcile him back into the family of God, as a son, an heir, and a joint heir with Christ of God's kingdom.

Jesus didn't come to establish a new religion. He came to establish the kingdom of God and displace the ruler of the kingdoms of this world and deliver us from Satan's authority over us.

Ephesians 2.1 amp

You he made alive when you were dead, slain by your trespasses and sins. In which at one time you walked habitually. You were following the course and fashion of this world, you were under the sway and the tendency of this present age, following the prince of the power of the air. You were obedient to and under the control of the demon spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience, the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving who go against the purposes of God.

Colossians 1:13 amp

The Father has delivered and drawn us to himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the son of his love, in whom we have our redemption through his blood which means the forgiveness of our sins.

1 Peter 1.18 states,

knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a Lamb unblemished in spotless, the blood of Christ.

Verse 23 says,

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

In Romans 8:16 it says,

The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, are is also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ....

Jesus came to redeem us from the corrupt, separated from God, and spiritually dead nature that we inherited from Adam and Eve and the world system that came into being as a result of the fall of man from God's presence.

He did this by recreating us in Christ, and making us members of his family, his children, his heirs, and joint heirs with Christ of God's Kingdom.

Let's look at some more scriptures.

In Colossians 1.18 it says that,

He is also the head of the body, the church and he is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that he himself might come to have first place in everything.

Over the years religion has tried to put Jesus in a class by Himself. It goes like this, Jesus healed the sick because he was God, he walked on water because he was God, He did miracles because he was God. The scriptures don't bear this out.

The scripture says he was born of woman. Luke 1.35

He took on human nature. Hebrews 2.14+15 says,

Since therefore these his children share in flesh and blood in the physical nature of human beings, he himself in similar manner partook of the same nature, that by going through death he might bring to naught and make of no effect, him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

and also that he might deliver and completely set free all those who through the haunting fear of death were held in bondage throughout the whole course of their lives.

Then as a man he laid aside His deity. Philipians 2.5-7 says,

Let the same attitude and purpose and humble mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus, let him be your example in humility, who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God, God, did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, but stripped himself of all Privileges and rightful dignity so as to assume the guise of a servant in that he became like men and was born a human being.

He consecrated Himself to God and was filled with the Holy Spirit

Luke 3.21+22 states,

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized, and while he was still praying, the visible heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from Heaven, saying, you are my son, my beloved. In you I am well pleased and find delight.

John 6.38

I've come down from heaven not to do my own will and purpose but to do the will and purpose of him who sent me. He humbled Himself even further, submitting to crucifixion as a criminal

Phillipians 2.8-11

And after he had appeared in human form, he abased and humbled Himself still further and carried his obedience to the extreme of death, even death on a cross. Therefore because he stooped so low God has highly exalted him and has freely bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on Earth and under the Earth and every tongue frankly and openly confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

By His death and resurrection, He became the last Adam, and became a life-giving spirit. 1 Corinthians 15.45

Jesus called Himself the son of man about 80 times in the Gospels.

It's hard for our minds to comprehend, that God would go to such great lengths to make sure that He could completely redeem his children back into his family, and into his kingdom.

As incredible as these things are, we can study, learn, and teach all these things, and miss the whole point of His coming.

In John 6.54-57, Jesus says,

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood possesses now eternal life, and I will raise him up from the dead on the last day. For my flesh is true and genuine food, and my blood is true and genuine drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells continually in me, and I in like manner dwell continually in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live through and because of the Father, even so whoever continues to feed on me, whoever takes me for his food and is nourished by me shall live in and because of me.

John 5.38

If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture said, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

God's intention from the very beginning, was that man would be his supreme creation to manifest his life over this entire Earth. Through the lie of Satan, Man became separated from God in the fall.

God's incredible plan of redemption, the gospel, is unlike anything on this planet. It's the supernatural act of God to restore us to our original created image and oneness with God and to dwell in his presence eternally.

The third aspect of Christ's coming is that Jesus demonstrated to the entire world, the eternal life that God made available for man to live.

He continually manifested a life that is beyond natural processes and limitations. He functioned from a spiritual realm that is far superior to logic, human reason, and natural understanding.

Let's look at a few scriptures.

John 6:63

It is the spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing, the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

All things are possible to him who believes.

Mark 11:22

Therefore I say to you all things for which you pray and ask believe that you have received them, and they should be granted to you

He walked on water

He healed the sick and cast out demons

He stopped a storm.

He turned water into wine

He fed five thousand people with a little boy's lunch.

He raised the dead

He said no one comes to the father but through me. I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life.

As incredibly supernatural, and beyond natural comprehension, the things that Jesus said and did are, if we miss what is spoken of in these next few scriptures, everything that Jesus did and said will become just old Bible stories that we can share with our kids, instead of being spirit and Life to us.

Hebrews 2:10

for it was fitting for him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through suffering. For both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one father, for which reason he is not ashamed to call them brethren.

Romans 8:28

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to become conformed to the image of his son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren, and whom he predestined, these he also call, and whom he called, these he also Justified, and whom he justified the see also glorified.

Ephesians 4:15

speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him, who is the head, even Christ...

John 17:17

As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Matthew 10:1

And having summoned his 12 disciples, he gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sick.

Verse 7

as you go, preach, saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, freely you receive, freely give.

1st John 4:16

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love, abides in God and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, that we have confidence in the day of judgment, because as he is, so also are we in this world

John 14:12

Truly, truly I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go to the father, and whatever you ask in my name, that will I do, that the father may be glorified in the son. If you ask anything in my name I will do it

Jesus came and demonstrated before the whole world, the life that God made available for men to live.

Allow me to summarize in my own words.

Jesus came and said, look guys, I have a body just like yours. I have emotions like yours, a brain like yours, and a spirit like yours. I get tired, I get sleepy, and I get hungry, just like you.

This flesh is limited because of the fall of Man from God's presence.

Let me show you what it was created for originally. Take your body, your soul and your spirit and surrender them completely to God. Submit to the Holy Spirit as Lord of your life.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller