

2025-11-30

Why Jesus Came to Earth

John 18:33-38

Our English word Advent comes from a Latin word meaning coming or arrival. The Advent season begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas. Counting backwards from December 25, today marks the first Sunday of Advent. After today, there are only 3 more Sundays of Advent before Christmas. We will also have a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 4:00 pm. Are you ready for the season? Advent is here! The Advent season should be a time of reflection, repentance and preparation. We reflect on the fact that God has come into the world at the incarnation. *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14). Hopefully during this season, we will be seeing nativity sets displayed reminding us of that special event when God came to be with us in Christ, in human form. This is not the only coming of Christ. Christians should also remember that by God’s grace through the gift of faith, God has come into our lives (Ephesians 2:8-9). When we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we are saved (Romans 10:9). God’s Spirit comes and lives in us and gives us life (8:11). What a great mystery, Christ in us, *“the hope of glory”* (Colossians 1:27). This season should remind us of the fact that Jesus promised to come again. We should prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, His return to earth, just as He promised (Acts 1:11). How do we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ? We prepare ourselves by being sanctified daily through God’s word (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8), by believing the truth.

There are many scriptures that reveal to us why Jesus came to earth. Today we examine **John 18:37-38** *“Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’ Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’”* For this cause Jesus was born, to bear witness to the truth. This was a major mission of Jesus during His time on earth. Everybody has some idea of what is truth to them. Sadly, most of their ideas of truth are wrong. They believe a lie and they do not even know it. Oh, they believe with all their hearts that they are righteous, but when what they believe is exposed to the real truth, God’s truth, they are seen as unrighteous. These unrighteous, ungodly people suppress God’s truth in their unrighteousness (Romans 1:19). So, what is truth? How can we know what is true?

We do not have time or space to deal with all the truth that Jesus bore witness to. We will deal with four important truths. First, **only God is good**. This is very important.

Do you remember the rich young ruler? Matthew, Mark and Luke record this event. We'll look at Luke's account (18:18-23). A certain ruler asked Jesus, "*Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*" You remember Jesus' response. "*Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*" The Jewish people are taught that God is good. Jesus is clarifying this statement by stating, **Only God is good.** Jesus wanted His listeners to hear and know the truth. People thought then as people think today. God is good, but so are people. Jesus wants us to understand the real truth. Only God is good, people are not. **From this truth, if Jesus is good, then Jesus is God.** Jesus asked the ruler if he kept the commandments. If you notice, Jesus only mentioned 5 of the 10 commandments in Luke's account. How does the ruler respond? "*All these things I have kept from my youth.*" The ruler is saying that he is good, too. **He is questioning Jesus' truth claim that only God is good.** Is God good? Yes, He is good. **Is God the only One who is good?** To be good means you are good all the time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year long. To be good means that **you are never not good.** What is true? Is God good? Jesus, the Bible, Christianity all teach the same truth. Only God is good (James 1:17-18). Only God is pure good, pure love, pure righteous, pure holy. God knows evil. He has the power to do evil, but He never does any evil. God is always good. Do you believe this?

Lots of people get this truth wrong. They think God is evil at times and people are basically good because we can do some good things. Here is **the second truth** we must know. **People are not good.** We know and God knows that people can do lots of good things. Even the vilest person can do something good to someone. Because we can do good things, does that make us good? Are people good like that rich young ruler who kept all those commandments from his youth? If he was a **rich old ruler** he would have been smarter, knowing he is not good all the time. What does the Bible say? "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). "*There is none righteous, no, not one*" (3:10 / Psalm 14:1-3). People are not good. "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked*" (Jeremiah 17:9). Isaiah writes that our righteous actions are nothing more than filthy rags (64:6). The good things that non-Christians do, in God's eyes, they are not good at all. **Those without Christ are dead in their trespasses and sins** (Ephesians 2:1). A person without Christ has a heart that is incurably sick. It is when we recognize this truth that we can truly repent of our sins and ask God's Spirit to live in us. He changes our heart. He teaches us the ways of God. Because we still live with this sinful nature we must die everyday to the sinful way of life and choose daily to live a life pleasing to God. This is the sanctification process.

Since the rich young ruler claimed he was good, Jesus told him to prove that he was good. "*Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure*

in heaven; and come, follow Me.” We see by his action that this rich young ruler was not good because only God is good. We see by the actions of Jesus that only God is good. He went beyond what the rich young ruler did not do. Jesus Christ, being the very *“form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death on the cross”* (Philippians 2:6-8). Jesus, being the **rich eternal ruler** did what He asked the **rich young ruler** to do, to prove, only God is good all the time to everyone and people are not. We are sinful in need of forgiveness. Forgiveness comes only one way, from one sacrifice for our sin. This leads us to the third truth Jesus bore witness to and we must know.

Jesus is *“the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6). No one, absolutely no one comes to God the Father and becomes part of His kingdom except through faith in Jesus. Truth was standing right in front of Pilate and he did not recognize the Truth. Pilate did not even know what truth was. The fourth truth is, **Jesus is King of the Jews**. He is King of all creation. God was demonstrating His goodness and love to the whole world by sacrificing His Eternal Word, His only begotten Son. God, through Pilate gave the Jews another chance to receive Jesus as their King. They rejected Him and took the thief, Barabbas instead. Pilate attempted to mock the Jews and God’s revealed truth by scourging Jesus. Then *“the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they struck Him with their hands”* (John 19:1-3).

Then Pilate took Jesus before the crowd one more time and proclaimed that Jesus had committed no crimes. Up to that point Pilate only saw Jesus as another Man, nothing more. He was not concerned with knowing the truth. He probably did not think that truth could be known. From his perspective he saw that only power ruled, not truth. He did not become aware of the truth about Jesus until the Jews demanded that Jesus be crucified. Pilate could not understand why the Jews were so determined to crucify a good man who had done nothing wrong. It made no sense. Then the secret came out. **Jesus had claimed to the Jews that He was the Son of God!** (Matthew 26:63-65 / Mark 14:60-65) Pilate was alarmed. In his Greek religious thinking people could be half gods and half men. Could Jesus be one? Pilate became more afraid. After further discussions with Jesus, Pilate attempted to release Him. Pilate must have recognized something, but it was too late. The crowd would not allow Jesus to be freed. Pilate came closer to believing some form of truth about Jesus. Unfortunately, he let the cares of this world and his fear of the crowd control Him. Pilate crucified “The King of the Jews.”

Jesus was born to bear witness to this truth. He is the real truth. What Jesus teaches is true. The truth is, only God is totally good. The truth is, people are not totally good. We are sinful people. The truth is, our only salvation comes from the only perfectly good God who gave His life for us sinful people. The truth is, Jesus is King of the Jesus, even more, He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He calls us to love all others as He loved us. Jesus is the truth we must **believe**. Jesus is the truth we must **live**. Jesus is the truth we must **follow**.

One last thought, Jesus never compromised truth. He reveals the truth to us. He tries to get us to believe the truth. He demonstrates by His actions that what He says is true. He never forced anyone to believe the truth. He gives you the freedom to believe Him or reject Him. He wants you to believe Him and follow Him. God is not willing that anyone should perish. God wants you to repent and change. God is not going to change. He is good. He is perfect. We are not good or perfect. We must change. It is your choice. Your eternity depends on how you choose. Choose Jesus. Start today by choosing Jesus. Then everyday afterwards keep choosing Jesus.

Questions to ask yourself:

What is truth?

Do you believe God's truth?

Does your lifestyle show that you believe God's truth?

How can we know what is true?

Actions to take: Choose Jesus. Believe the truth of Jesus. Follow His example. As Jesus sacrificed His life to demonstrated God's truth and God's love, what sacrifice would God want you to make to teach others about God's truth and God's love? Christianity is about obedience and sacrifice from a devoted heart.

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Our mission statement: **Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ;
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