

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline 6/12/15 ~ Thong Ng

Christmas Through Heaven's Eyes - Part I

Why Did Jesus Come?

Introduction

J.I. Packer once observed, *"You will never need more than God can supply."*

As a corollary then - if God supplies something - then we must need it.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Why did God have to send Jesus?

We need a Saviour

Jesus repeated to make it clear to his disciples *His mission led to the cross.*

Matthew 16:21 *From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

Jesus predicted it a second time: Matthew 17:22-23, *When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief.*

Jesus repeated it the third time: Matthew 20:17-19 *Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the*

Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

Jesus knew his mission - he prepared his disciples. Why did he come?

Graham Cooke: The Cross was about *pain for Jesus*, but it's not for you. It was *death to Him*, so it's life for you.

We need a Saviour for three reasons - seen in three images and three scenes.

A Gavel in a Courtroom - *Guilty*, condemned to Death

Matthew 5:17 *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

All of us have violated the laws - laws of the land for order; natural law - govern our universe; moral laws - relationships with one another

We are Guilty – Death - Jesus came to fulfil the demands of the law

- Sinless sacrifice
- Accepted by God - sign God raised him up on the third day
- Growing up – helped my mother in offering sacrifice to idols - are the gods happy with the sacrifices - who can tell?

The image of the Gavel in a courtroom – reality before a Judge

- Declared guilty- condemned to die.
- At the cross Jesus took our sin - we take His perfection
- Declared clean by His sinless blood

A Raft in the Ocean – *Lost* in the vast sea

Luke 19:10 “*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*”

Lost on a raft in a middle of a vast ocean

- Drifting with no food and no water
- No compass - no direction - don't know where you are or where you're going- drifting with the current and hoping for the best
- No hope of paddling to shore - cannot save yourself; need outside help

We are lost - some don't know it

We live in a *candy-counter culture*, where we don't look lost; don't know we're lost but we are lost. We are lost in sin until we find salvation in Jesus.

You may know you're lost - looking everywhere to find God.

Francis Thompson says - *He is the hound of heaven.*

“As the hound follows the hare, never ceasing in its running, ever drawing nearer in the chase, with unhurrying and imperturbed pace, so does God follow the fleeing soul by His Divine grace. And though in sin or in human love, away from God it seeks to hide itself, Divine grace follows after, unwearingly follows ever after, till the soul feels its pressure forcing it to turn to Him alone in that never ending pursuit.”

A Slave on an Auction Block – *Performance* for acceptance mentality

Matthew 20:27-28 “*and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*”

Sin imprisons people - we become slaves to sin

- we cannot pay the price to be released
- sin is a hard task master

In Tibet pilgrims prostrate themselves by lying face down on the ground and stretching out their arms and legs.

Tibetans ideally prostrate themselves 100,000 times a year around temples, on roads, streets and sidewalks.

Some pilgrims cover the entire 33 mile route around Mount Kailash or travel from their hometowns to Lhasa, repeatedly prostrating themselves or crawling on their stomach or walking on their knees. They often wear knee pads, aprons and canvas shoes on their hands and take two or three weeks to complete the journey.

Jesus came and purchased our freedom – both now and for eternity.

Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh, a global spiritual leader, a pioneer in bringing Buddhism to the West, in his book “Taming the Tiger Within” said:

“Life is available only in the present moment.”

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is **eternal life** in Christ **Jesus our Lord**.*

Jesus came

- to face the full demands of the law - we are FREE - no condemnation
- to find us and give us meaning and purpose in life - no drifting
- to purchase us from slavery and make us his sons, joint heirs with his son - no more working to please. He is pleased with us - no orphan spirit.

Communion

John 14:2 *My Father's **house** has **many** rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?*

A gate to the Heavenly Mansion - abundant life here and now - eternal life with him
- body can soar with the spirit; no more pain; no more tears.