

Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?

Vintage Jesus, week 10

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"I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me."

— Jesus (John 8:42)

Jesus said that He was sent from heaven to earth on a mission from God the Father (John 3:12–14; 6:38–39; 8:42). To best understand why Jesus came to earth, we must begin by examining the Old Testament. This is because Jesus Himself said that His mission was to fulfill every detail of the Old Testament (Matthew 5:17–18). For God's people in the Old Testament, there were three major offices: prophet, priest, and king. As we examine the words of Jesus Himself, we discover that He came to earth to fulfill each of those roles.

- I. **Jesus is the Prophet** who reveals God to us and speaks God's word to us. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise that a great prophet was coming (Deuteronomy 18:15–18; Acts 3:22–24). Furthermore, Jesus is greater than other prophets because Jesus spoke with His own authority (Matthew 5:22) and was the very Word of God (John 1:1).

Jesus came to preach.

Mark 1:36–42 *Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.*

Jesus came to teach us how to be born again.

John 3:1–3 *Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."*

- II. **Jesus is the Priest** who reconciles us to God by sacrificing Himself for our sin (Hebrews 9:26) and by living to intercede for us continually (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

Jesus came to save lost people.

Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

Jesus came to save the world.

John 12:46–47 *"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it."*

Jesus came to die.

John 12:27–33 *“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.*

Jesus came to serve us through His death.

Matthew 20:25–29 *Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 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.”*

Jesus came to call sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:31–32 *Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

Jesus came to call sinners to Himself.

Matthew 9:9–14 *As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and “sinners” came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

- III. **Jesus is the King** who rules over all peoples, times, and places as well as every aspect of our lives (Luke 19:38).

Jesus came to reveal His kingdom.

John 18:36–38 *Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.” “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” “What is truth?” Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”*

Jesus came to rule over Satan and demons.

Luke 11:19–21 *“Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.”*

Jesus came to rule over our new life.

John 10:9–10 *“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

Next week: Why did Jesus’ mom need to be a virgin?