

## Title: "The Divine Purpose: Why Jesus Came to Earth"

### Pre-amble 1 : BPC Mission

Helping people meet Christ

Helping people mature in Christ

Helping people minister with Christ

- An admirable mission!
- One which we DO engage with, but maybe could do better
- No need to change, but needs to be contextualised for our fellowship
- And we need a mission action plan – write down how we will fulfill our mission, and what success will look like.
- Let's roll up our sleeves together over the next few weeks and embark on a confident future as a fellowship!

**Note: Our mission is all about Jesus! This sermon is all about Jesus.**

### Pre-amble 2 : I (Really) Believe in Jesus

We have just sung this song:

I believe in Jesus  
I believe he is the son of God  
I believe he died and rose again  
I believe he paid for us all  
I believe he is here now  
Standing in our midst  
Here with the power to heal now  
And the grace to forgive

I sang it with complete agreement! Did you?

You now know where I am coming from in this message. It is about a real Jesus, who was born of the virgin Mary over 2000 years ago, who was (is!) the Son of God, who lived on earth, who healed and taught and showed God's kingdom, who died that

our sins may be forgiven, and who rose again to demonstrate eternal life, and, through his Holy Spirit, to be here with us now. I believe it all! Do you? But: WHY did Jesus come to earth?

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## Why Jesus Came to Earth

I have just three points, and this will be a short message! (You hope!!)

Jesus came:

1. to Live Among Us, as One of Us
2. to "Do and Teach" – to show God's love, and to teach us His ways
3. to Die, and Rise Again

### 1. Jesus Came to Live Among Us

- My whole sermon of a year ago; I won't repeat all the detail! O Come, O Come, Immanuel!
- The word "incarnation" is used to refer to the belief that the eternal Son of God, who is divine and existed before all time, took on human flesh and became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ.
- In the scriptures, John 1:14 reminds us that "The Word became flesh and **made his dwelling among us.**" John, of course, has already opened his gospel by using the term "The Word" to refer to Jesus.
- Matthew 1:23 declares that Jesus is Immanuel, which means "God with us."
- **By coming to earth as a man, Jesus shared, and** identified with, our human experiences, joys, and struggles. Whilst he may not have experienced every single thing that can occur in human life, he lived for 30 years as an ordinary human – nothing special – those in Nazareth, rejecting his ministry, could not believe that the carpenter's son had done and said all these things! He knows us! As a current American promotion says "He Gets us!".
- Jesus showed us how to live a life pleasing to God.

- He exemplified walking the path of humility, compassion, and selflessness. What a model. And even if we cannot attain his “perfection”, that is no reason not to be inspired by him!

## 2. Jesus Came to Teach God's Truth and Demonstrate His Love

Acts 1:1: Luke writes “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about **all that Jesus began to do and to teach**”. The life of Jesus, after the commencement of his ministry, was one of action and teaching – action demonstrating God’s kingdom, and teaching about the kingdom.

- Jesus came to proclaim the Kingdom of God - Matthew 4:17 - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
- He demonstrated the reality of the Kingdom through His actions.
  - He performed countless miracles, always with a purpose, greater or smaller:
    - turning water into wine
    - feeding the multitudes (5000, then 4000)
    - healing the sick – so many times, and for the teeming hordes of people at the time, this was the main drawcard of Jesus
    - raising the dead
    - forgiving sins
  - He engaged with people – for example Zacchaeus, the woman at the well, the tax-collectors and sinners (!!), the scribes and the Pharisees, his disciples – teaching through his actions and lifestyle as much as through his words
  - He displayed His divine power and compassion for those in need - the sick, the poor, and the outcasts of society. His healing touch and words of comfort revealed God's heart for the suffering.
  - He demonstrated acts of Forgiveness
    - One of the most profound actions was His forgiveness of sins, such as the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11) and the

paralytic (Matt 9:1-8), whose paralysis was healed, but much more importantly, whose sins were forgiven.

- Jesus **taught** throughout his ministry – here are some examples that are captured by the gospel writers, and hence come down to us today. But we must not see these as special discourses by which an “academic” writing down doctrines of a religion! They were given in the here and now to various audiences, with the intent of immediate application in peoples’ lives. That we have them today through the gospel writers is a great bonus!

<<Omit detail if time is short>>

- Sermon on the Mount: This is one of the most famous teachings of Jesus, found in Matthew chapters 5 to 7. In this sermon, Jesus covered a wide range of topics, including the Beatitudes, teachings on prayer, fasting, love for enemies, and moral principles for living a righteous life.
- Parables: Jesus often used parables, or earthly stories with heavenly meanings, to teach important spiritual lessons. Some well-known parables include the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), and the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23).
- The Lord's Prayer: Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in what is commonly known as the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father (Matthew 6:9-13). This prayer serves as a model for Christian prayer and emphasizes seeking God's will and forgiveness.
- The Last Supper: During the Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus taught about the significance of the bread and wine, instituting the practice of the Lord's Supper or Communion (Matthew 26:26-29).
- Farewell Discourse: In the Gospel of John, chapters 13 to 17, Jesus delivered a series of teachings to His disciples just before His crucifixion. These teachings cover topics such as love, the work of the Holy Spirit, unity, and the promise of peace.
- Conversations with Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman: Jesus had significant theological discussions with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21) and the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42), addressing topics like rebirth, living water, and true worship.

- Teaching in the Temple: Jesus often taught in the temple in Jerusalem. His teachings in this setting covered various subjects, including His identity as the Messiah, the kingdom of God, and religious hypocrisy (Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48).
- Olivet Discourse: On the Mount of Olives, Jesus delivered prophetic teachings about the end times, signs of His coming, and the need for watchfulness (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21).

### 3. Jesus Came to Die and Rise Again

In many ways, this was the main reason Jesus came to earth. He secured our redemption and justification. Through Jesus, we find forgiveness and righteousness.

- The theology of the New Testament identifies this as necessary:
  - 1 Cor 15:22  
"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."
  - Rom 5:12, 18  
<sup>12</sup> "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned  
  
<sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people."

- The Purpose of His Death is clarified in scripture

Matthew 20:28 - "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Several purposes of the death of Christ come to mind. For example:

- Atonement for Sin – sin has to be punished
- Reconciliation of man with God
- Redemption and Forgiveness of sin
- Justification – the guilty have to be transformed into those viewed as righteous  
(Romans 4:25 - "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.")
- Defeat of the Powers of Darkness
- Establishment of the New Covenant
- Demonstration of the extreme love of God.

- The Triumph of His Resurrection empowered Christians from Day 1 to this day

**First of course, is the reality of the resurrection: Luke 24:6-7 - "He is not here; he has risen!"**

What purposes does the resurrection demonstrate? Here are a few:

- a. Verification of Jesus' Identity
- b. Confirmation of Victory Over Death
- c. Confirmation of God's Acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice
- d. Assurance of Justification for believers
- e. Confirmation of the Defeat of Satan and Sin
- f. Anchoring of Hope of Resurrection for Believers
- g. Empowerment of Believers by the Holy Spirit
- h. Provision of a solid foundation of Christian Faith
- i. Assurance of Christ's Presence today.

#### **4. What to Remember!!**

**In summary, we have covered three areas:**

Jesus came:

1. to Live Among Us, as One of Us
2. to "Do and Teach" – to show God's love, and to teach us His ways
3. to Die, and Rise Again

#### **5. What It Means for Us Today and How We Should Respond**

When we read the scriptures, it is not all about what happened THEN! It is about what it means for NOW, for you and me, here today!

- Embracing His Mission  
We are called to imitate Jesus in our lives, living out His teachings and fulfilling our destiny. When we sing "I believe He is here now, standing in our midst" – we mean that he is here within every one of us who believes and follows him. Jesus' mission now must be fulfilled by us, his followers, as it has been since his ascension. Are we ready for this?

- Embracing His example.  
His mission becomes our mission, and what this means is this: to proclaim the kingdom to others (sharing the gospel); healing the brokenhearted (whether by use of the gift of divine healing, if that has been given to us), or simply by sharing Jesus' love to those in need; and forgive as we have been forgiven – a daily challenge helped if we regularly pray the Lord's prayer!!
- Receiving Salvation  
The death and resurrection of Jesus offer us forgiveness, hope, and eternal life. Let us accept His gift of salvation with gratitude and faith. If you have not yet done that, now is the time!
- Sharing the Good News  
As disciples of Christ, we are entrusted with the responsibility of sharing the Gospel with others. Let us be witnesses of His love, grace, and the transformative power of His mission.

**Take Away:**

Jesus came to earth for a divine purpose that encompasses living among us, demonstrating God's love and teaching God's truth, and offering His life for our redemption, and his resurrection as an anchor for our hope of eternal life. His life, acts, teaching, death, and resurrection are not mere historical events (which they are!) but the very essence of our faith. Let them empower us today!

Amen.