

Jesus is Good News

God is love.

Jesus healed the sick and oppressed. He condemned hypocrisy and abusive religion. He said that God loves us and encouraged us to seek a personal relationship with God as our Father. He taught us to pray: "Our Father, who is in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9-13)

God expects us to love.

Jesus showed that God's love is the heart of the Ten Commandments. He said: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and gives rain to the just and to the unjust." (Matt 5:44)

His Golden Rule was:
"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matthew 7:12)

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these commands depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40)

We do not love God & others as we should. This separates us from God.

Jesus said none of us loves God and others as we should. He called this "sin." One morning religious leaders brought a woman before him. "Teacher" they said, "this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act!" Jesus replied, "he who is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." The crowd left because they knew their own hearts. Jesus said we should be careful of accusing others because we all sin. (John 8:1-11)

Jesus told a story about a man named Lazarus who begged for food in front of a rich man's house. The rich man had fine clothes and plenty to eat. Lazarus was covered in sores & wished he could eat the scraps from the rich man's table. Lazarus died and was carried to heaven by angels. The rich man also died but was taken to hell. There he cried out for Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and come cool his tongue. Heaven answers the rich man: "between us there is a great fixed separation." (Luke 16:20-25)

Jesus died to give us peace with God.

His life and death have special meaning to God. He lived a perfect life. Jesus truly loved God and others; therefore he obeyed all of God's commands. He said: "I came to fulfill God's law." (Matthew 5:17)

But he was accused of blasphemy and sedition. Roman soldiers executed him on a cross between two thieves. (Matthew 27)

He predicted his own death and said it would have special significance:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command." (John 15:13-14)

"I have not come to be served but to serve and to give my life as a ransom." (Matthew 20:28)

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Jesus is King.

Jesus lived the life we should live. He died the death we should die. But his death was not the end, it was the beginning. They placed his dead body in a tomb but he came back to life three days later. (Matthew 28)

His death & resurrection overturned sin and brought a new order upon the earth:
"Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to myself." (John 12:31-32)

He called this new order "the kingdom of God" and said it would spread around the world:
"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me, so go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. I will always be with you." (Matt 13:31-32; 28:18-20)

We must return to God with childlike faith.

Jesus announced his kingdom with a personal invitation: "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Good News." (Mark 1:15)

Jesus told the story of a son who wanted his inheritance even though his father had not yet died. The son took the money and ran away from home. In a far country he wasted every penny on wild living. He got a job feeding pigs but the pay was bad. He got so hungry that he wished he could eat the pigs' food. At the end of his rope he decided to go home. When he was still far off his father saw him. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son." But his father said, "Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. For my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." Jesus explained: "likewise there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10-32)

***What do you think about Jesus?

***Do you want to be forgiven and start a new life with God as a follower of Jesus Christ?