



WHY JESUS CAME

Study 3

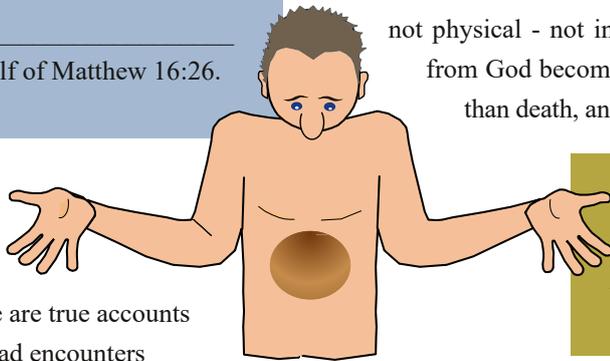
Our Great Need

We are spiritual beings. We are not animals whose existence is fulfilled simply by satisfying physical instincts. There is a desire embedded deep within to find meaning to life beyond just eating and drinking and working and dying.

Only a friendship with God can satisfy this basic need. Our problem is that we are separated from him so the relationship is broken before it even begins. Consequently, in our life a gap appears. Then we try to replace God with other things:- ambition, money, drugs, alcohol, education, career, sex, music, sport.

Some of these things are good. Some are not. But whether good or evil, we cannot find what we're searching for because what's missing is spiritual - not physical - not intellectual either. Finally, our present separation from God becomes a permanent separation forever. This is worse than death, and nothing can reverse it. That is why Jesus came.

Write the first half of Matthew 16:26.
(See page 26)



IN OUR LIFE A GAP APPEARS,
SO WE TRY TO REPLACE GOD
WITH OTHER THINGS.

The four stories here are true accounts about people who had encounters with God. Each person was different, but what they had in common was a sense that life must be something more.



THE BUSINESSMAN WHO COULDN'T FIND IT IN MONEY

(Luke 19:1-10 See page 14)

This is the story of Zacchaeus, a very wealthy man and tax agent for an oppressive foreign government. Do you think the saying, 'money can't buy happiness' is true? If so, what do you think are the reasons for this?

THE WOMAN WHO COULDN'T FIND IT IN LOVE

(John 4:4-29 See page 15)



Jesus wanted to speak to this woman because he knew she was unhappy deep inside. He started talking about water then changed the subject to the water that never ran dry. Write down the most important verse in this conversation - the part he wanted her to know most of all. (verse 14) Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but ...

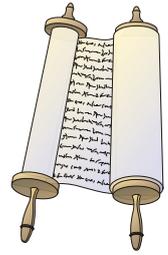
WE MAKE MONEY, WE SEARCH
FOR ROMANCE, WE EVEN
THINK ABOUT RELIGION.

THE YOUNG MAN WHO COULDN'T FIND IT IN RELIGION

(Matthew 19:16-20 See page 14)

Now here is a man who had more going for him than the previous stories. A finer young man you could never meet! Yet he had the same hollow feeling that they had. His perplexing question said it all.

"All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"



THE KING WHO COULDN'T FIND IT IN FAME

(Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 See page 26)

King Solomon was the most famous of the kings in Israel ruling from BC 970 – BC 930. He was renowned for his wisdom and for his writings and was also fabulously rich. Yet for all of Solomon's success, his conclusions about life was that it was ...

_____ (Write the word from verse 11)

That is not true for those who find God of course, but the problem with finding God is there seems to be a wall between us and him. It is as if there needs to be a 'door' or a 'way' – something that can get us back to him. Read John 10: 9-10 (Page 27) What has Christ come to give us?

Read John 3:16,17 (Page 14) and tick the correct box.



He came to save us



He came to condemn us

BUT JESUS CAME
THAT WE MAY
FIND OUR LIFE
AGAIN.

THE BRIDGE TO NOWHERE.

Deep in the heart of the North Island, (NZ) in dense native bush, lies a forgotten valley. Old fence lines on a fading road, a few stands of exotic trees, and the occasional brick chimney protruding through tangled undergrowth are all that remains of what once was the hope of the settlers of Mangapurua - returned soldiers from the Great War. But standing like an old concrete epitaph is a strangely beautiful structure draped with ponga's and green ferns. Locals call it the 'Bridge to Nowhere.'

By the bridge is a sign detailing when it was built and how it got to be there but, for those who care to make their way through bush tracks to look and wonder, the 'Bridge to Nowhere' serves as a silent reminder: Life is like a road which, without God, does not know where it is going.

But He has provided a better way. That is why Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life ... I am the door; whoever enters through me will be saved."*

And that is why Jesus came.



Study 3 Bible readings: Pages 14 - 15, 26 - 27

More studies (and answers) here:
www.5loaves2fishes.net/free-resources