



WHY JESUS CAME

Study 3

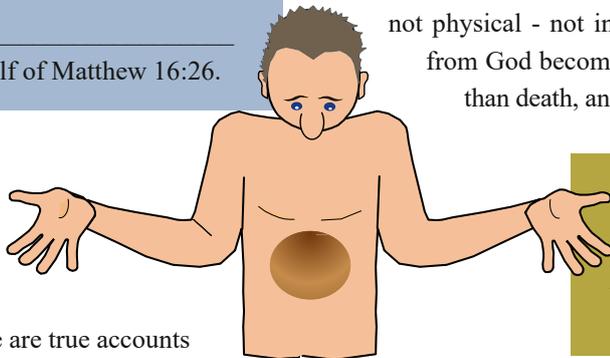
Our Great Need

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.



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)

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)



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 ...

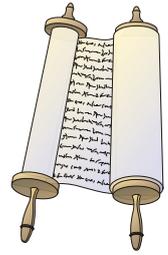
WE MAKE MONEY, WE SEARCH
FOR ROMANCE, WE EVEN
THINK ABOUT RELIGION.

THE YOUNG MAN WHO COULDN'T FIND IT IN RELIGION

(Matthew 19:16-20)

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)

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.

What has Christ come to give us?

BUT JESUS CAME
THAT WE MAY
FIND OUR LIFE
AGAIN.

Read John 3:16,17

and tick the correct box.



He came to
save us



He came to
condemn us

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 Mangapuru - 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.'

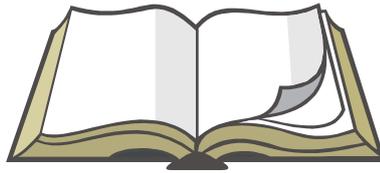
By the bridge is a sign detailing when it was built and how it got to be there but, for those who care to make their way through bush tracks to look and wonder, the 'Bridge to Nowhere' serves as a silent reminder: Life is like a road which, without God, does not know where it is going.

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.



Find the answers on this page to WHY JESUS CAME



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

Read from this answer page
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Matthew 16:26 (NASB)

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Encounters

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 Story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10 GNT)

Jesus went on into Jericho and was passing through. There was a chief tax collector there named Zacchaeus, who was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was a little man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, who was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said to Zacchaeus, "Hurry down, Zacchaeus, because I must stay in your house today." Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed him with great joy.

All the people who saw it started grumbling, "This man has gone as a guest to the home of a sinner!" Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Listen, sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much." Jesus said to him, "Salvation has come to this house today, for this man, also, is a descendant of Abraham. The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

The Woman of Samaria (John 4: 4-29 NIV)

⁴Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

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

¹⁹“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

²⁵The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” ²⁷Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

A Young Man's Earnest Question (Matthew 19:16-25 NKJV)

¹⁶Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” ¹⁷So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “You shall not murder,’ “You shall not commit adultery,’ “You shall not steal,’ “You shall not bear false witness,’ ¹⁹“Honor your father and your mother,’ and, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The Testimony of King Solomon (Ecclesiastes 2: 1 - 11 NLT)

¹I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.” But I found that this, too, was meaningless. ²So I said, “Laughter is silly. “What good does it do to seek pleasure?” ³After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

BUT JESUS CAME THAT WE
MAY FIND OUR LIFE AGAIN.

⁴I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. ⁵I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves.

John 10:9-10 (NKJV)

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

⁷I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. ⁸I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire!

⁹So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. ¹⁰Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. ¹¹But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless - like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

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