

WHY HE CAME

In spite of the plainness of the singularity of Jesus' purpose in coming to earth it is still misunderstood. Men have variously set forth such purposes as political revolution, social reform, and physical healing—all of which crucially miss the mark.

None besides the Christ ever lived with a clearer grasp of His aim or purpose: "For the Son of man also came...to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45); "For the Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10); "For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins" (Mat. 26:28).

Inspired men clearly stated the true and underlying purpose of all of the Lord's miraculous activity:

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath authority on earth to forgive sins (he saith to the sick of the palsy), I say unto thee, arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thy house (Mark 2:10–11).

Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name (John 20:30–31).

No wonder Jesus was so concerned for the lost that He worked and taught in every possible way to reach them. His brief earthly life was spent traveling, teaching, healing, and helping—all to one grand end: to redeem lost men from sin so that they might be saved eternally. Many of His teachings are direct appeals to the lost and about the lost, including the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (Luke 15:3–32). He issued His "great invitation" to those who were (are) lost (Mat. 11:28–30). He wept over lost Jerusalem (Luke 19:41–44). All that He said and did was concentrated upon saving man from the curse of sin. If any yet remain unconvinced that

Jesus' chief concern was for the lost, then follow Him as He struggles up the road to Calvary and willingly lays Himself upon the cross.

Men cannot claim to be serious about serving Christ and not be seriously concerned about lost souls. His never-ending concern caused Him to order His followers to go into all the world with the Gospel so that men might believe, be baptized and be saved (Mark 16:15–16). Through Paul He commanded His followers to "Preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2). An active, genuine concern for men and women who are lost in sin is an inescapable part of every Christian's life. It is not enough merely to **observe** Jesus' concern for the lost. We must find some way or ways in which to follow Him in that concern by seeking those good and honest hearts and getting the Gospel to them.

—Dub McClish

Denton, TX