

2021: Saturday, 10/2 at 4:00 & Sunday, 10/3 at 9:00



Series: Are You Ready to Cross the Finish Line?

JESUS

Who? What? Why?

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Scripture: Matthew – John, NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: So far in this sermon series, we have covered about **4,000** years of history:

- ✓ **1,700** – Adam through the flood
- ✓ **300** – the flood to Abraham
- ✓ **2,000** – Abraham to Jesus

During that time, ➡ **the people kept doing wrong**, BUT ➡ **God kept following His plan to redeem the world through His Son.**

Today, we focus on JESUS, **†who** He is, **†what** He did, and **†why** He did it.

1. **JESUS – Who He Is:**


a. Initially, He was only the Son of God:

- i. **He was with God the Father in the beginning:** “In the beginning was the Word [Son], and the Word was with God [Father], and the Word was God” (John 1:1).
- ii. **He is the One through whom God the Father created all things:** “All things came into being through Him...” (John 1:3).

- iii. **He is the promised descendant of Eve:** He would †battle Satan and †be injured by Satan, **BUT** He would also †defeat Satan. God said to Satan, “**He [Jesus] shall bruise you on the head, and you [Satan] shall bruise Him on the heel**” (Genesis 3:15).
- iv. **Many things in the OT pointed ahead to His coming and work:** He would be ♥Abraham’s ultimate descendant, ♥Isaac’s ultimate replacement, ♥the ultimate Passover Lamb, ♥the ultimate fulfillment of every blood sacrifice, ♥the ultimate defeater of our enemies, ♥the ultimate rest for our salvation, and ♥the Leader into the ultimate Promised Land!

b. In the fulness of time, He put on human flesh:

- i. **From the beginning He was the Word – the Son of God, then:** “the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14).
- ii. **Jesus made a HUGE connection between Himself and the OT:** He said, “...the Scriptures... testify about Me” (John 5:39).

2. **JESUS – What He Did:** The BIG 5 ; there are certainly more than 5, *but most have 5 digits on each hand.*

- a. Birth: This part begins with conception; Gabriel said to Mary, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you**” (Luke 1:35). What does that mean? We confess in the Nicene Creed: The Son of God “**was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man...**” So, *by the Holy Spirit*, the Son of God put on human flesh! Then, *as prophesied* (Micah 5:2), He was born in Bethlehem of Judea (Luke 2:1-7).

b. Life:

i. **Jesus repeatedly showed the connection between Himself and God the Father:** He said, “*I and the Father are one*” (John 10:30), and Peter said, God performed “*miracles and wonders and signs... through [Jesus]*” (Acts 2:22).

ii. **Jesus was our sinless substitute:** being “*tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin*” (Heb. 4:15).

iii. **Jesus is the Christ:** When the high priest asked Him, “*Are You the Christ...?*” [He said,] “*I am...*” (Mark 14:61-62).

c. Death: **We were born to live, yet our sins have brought the penalties of death and hell upon us** (Rom. 6:23). **But Jesus was born to die – to deliver us from death and hell** (1 Peter 2:24)! So, Jesus, †in perfect obedience to His Father and †with great love for us, *laid down His life!*

d. Resurrection: †Jesus did die, †His body was pierced with a spear – *probably through His heart*, and †His body was placed in a new tomb on Good Friday. Even though Jesus said He would “*be raised up on the third day*” (Matt. 16:21), *none of His followers understood.*

But God did raise Jesus to life for many reasons:

i. To prove the truth of what Jesus taught!

ii. To show His acceptance of Jesus’ sacrifice!

iii. To prove Jesus’ victory over sin, death, and Satan!

e. Ascension: ➔Jesus’ death was so horrible and ➔His resurrection so wonderful, *but who would believe it!* So, *between Jesus being raised and ascending*, the Bible says that “*He appeared to Cephas, then to the*

twelve... [And] to more than five hundred brethren at one time” (1 Cor. 15:5-6). Then, *after giving important final instructions – call everyone to repent and believe*, He “was carried up into heaven” (Luke 24:46-51).

3. **JESUS – Why He Did It:** Three HUGE events:

- a. Creation: *The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit* ☺loved us, ☺made a perfect world, and ☺made sinless people – *who would live forever in perfect harmony with God and all.*
- b. Fall: Satan tempted the people and they fell – *which ruined the relationship between* ☹people and God and ☹people and people.
- c. Salvation: **Since God’s love is greater than Satan and sin, the Holy Trinity worked together to save the world:**
➔God the Father planning, ➔God the Son doing the work, and ➔God the Holy Spirit ☺clothing repentant ones in Christ and ☺making them members of God’s kingdom!

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – The God-Man created, saved, and will come again!
- **Relevance** – Jesus lived, died, and rose for every person!
- **Inspiration** – God welcomes all who repent and believe!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, *Son of God and Son of Man*, as we imagine the horror of hell, *we greatly rejoice in Your finished work and the promise of heaven; help us to tell others!*

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