

Family Heritage Developer

Walkersville Christian Family Schools - *Established 1983*
16827 Sabillasville Road, Sabillasville, MD, 21780; Voice: 301-241-2072
Fax: 301-241-2073; Email: admin@wcfs.edu; Web: www.wcfs.edu

"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3

September 22, 2015



Why Did You Come to Jesus?

By Timothy Shell, WCF/S Missionary to Mongolia

Why did you come to Jesus?

What brought Blind Bartimeus to Jesus? He wanted to see! His need brought Him to Jesus. (Mark 10:46)

What brought the Philippian Jailer to Jesus? He wanted to not die, to escape the punishment for any jailer who lost his prisoners!

My friend Maidar lost the use of his arm in a car accident, but that brought him to Jesus so he is thankful.

What brought you to Jesus?

Our needs bring us to Jesus, but Jesus brings us to our need.

Why does Jesus often mention sin in the gospels when dealing with a person who comes to Him with a need? Why does He say, "you are forgiven" when they were asking for healing? Because they needed forgiveness more! Their primary need was for their sins to be forgiven, not for their body to be healed. If the body is healed, but the person is not forgiven, then they die and are lost! What is the benefit of that? However, this was the case with many people who started out following Jesus but later turned away. Having your body healed is different from having your soul saved.

Jesus is glad when we come to Him, glad when our troubles and sorrows push us to Him; but once we cry to Him to save us we should be prepared for more than just escaping our troubles, but facing our sin.

I need to be healed, delivered from someone, rescued from a storm, rain for the land, freedom from a debt, deliverance from a demon, and so on. But when I meet Jesus, what does He say to me? Repent! He puts His finger on my sin and challenges me to repent, to turn 180 degrees away from my sin and go the other direction, to change my mind and agree with Him that what I am doing is wrong.

"Then they cry to Him in their distress....", Psalm 107 has five stories about people who were about to die and cried to God who saved them. At the end it says, "Whoever is wise and will observe these things, even they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord". This is the kind of God we have, One who saves, but not just from troubles —He saves from sin!

When the angel came to Mary, he didn't mention what to name the child, but when he went to Joseph he did, "thou shalt call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins", not just their sorrows and troubles. *Why did you come to Jesus?* If you came for a financial problem, or a health problem, or a family problem, or a marriage problem, or other problem, that's a good place to start, but don't stop there!

Have you dealt with your sins with Jesus? Have you taken care of your main problem? Have you admitted you are a sinner? That you are wrong and have done many wrong things? That you need God to forgive you. You have asked Jesus to save you from your problem, but have you asked Him to save you from your sin?

How to deal with your sin...

Honestly: don't try to hide and make excuses and justify your self, be absolutely honest with God. You get nowhere with God if you aren't totally honest. "Naked and bare", the Bible says.

Fairly: If you are wrong admit it. Be just. Don't say something is right that is wrong. God may be accusing you, or a person, or the devil. Agree with the accuser if you are wrong. If you are 10% wrong admit it.

Quickly: Don't delay if you are wrong. Delay gains you nothing. Change your mind right now.

Make it right: If you stole, pay it back. Humble yourself and ask forgiveness.

Be happy again: There is no reason to live a sad life filled with bad feelings all day long because of something we did wrong. Deal with it right away and get on with living. Nothing can be right in your life till you deal with your sin.

Repent Like a Little Child!

We must study to show ourselves approved unto God but nowhere does it tell us to study sin. The fact is, the Bible says to be excellent at what is good and be innocent of evil; it says to love the good and hate the evil; if you love the Lord, hate evil; it says to think about whatever is true, honest and just; things of good report and worthy of praise and so on. Where do you find sin in that list of thoughts? We are not supposed to be creatures taken up with our sin by examining, dissecting, probing and working through it in great detail!

We are commanded to become as little children. Little children are innocent and live in a world of innocence until an adult convicts them of sin, "You stole and ate your brothers candy, you are a thief, now you will have to pay him back for what you stole a double portion." A little child is oblivious to their sin until convicted. The child is clearly told what they did wrong, then they are clearly told what the consequences will be, then they are given opportunity to make it right, and they deal with it all in a matter of minutes or an hour or so at the most, not much more than that. Then they are free and happy again, back to playing and enjoying life. They don't take

days and weeks and months and years to deal with their wrong doing; who could live like that? But many believers do. The Bible says to deal quickly with your sin and with your adversary. Like a child.

Children quickly admit their feelings and what they want, they don't hide what is in their heart, they are open with their grudges and disappointments. So they deal with life in a healthy manner. They are generally quick to forgive and forget.

The Holy Spirit is the adult in your life who is responsible to convict you of sin. If He isn't dealing with you about something then you are free and clear and allowed to enjoy life. He is very specific, your conviction and judgement are plain, there is no vagueness, no guessing on your part, no confusion and no condemnation, but a plain presentation of your wrong. You are not to go digging up sins of the past and spending hours contemplating your mistakes in fine detail over and over. God does not want us to be dwelling on sin all day long. He wants us to repent quickly and get on with enjoying our relationship with Him. He's not a hard task master, His yoke is easy and His burden light. He says don't fret over evil doers, that includes you! Don't fret over the old man, reckon him to be dead just like God says.

Worship Like King David!

Recently, I received this devotional email from a dear brother in Christ. It reflects an attitude of gratitude and worship as the fruit of rightly coming to Jesus. I will close with these thoughts...

"I have had another terrible day and night. The pain, is relentless and debilitating, affecting the mind and emotions as it grinds me down. I could not imagine how I could ever see one of my kids go through this and not move heaven and earth to try and help. If a dog was left to live in this state of chronic, debilitated, and at times intense excruciating sustained pain, it would be considered cruelty.

"I awoke this morning, hardly having slept, and not knowing where to go with my thoughts, asking Him to help me center my thoughts on Him — and there was a 'BUT GOD' moment, as

He reminded me of Psalm 103:1. I went back to the Psalm and thought on how His Name, 'LORD' is used in various other Scriptures and I put some of them together like a pearl necklace, as fuel to focus and bless Him. Below is the devotional I wrote and posted today. I hope it will encourage you! Let some of the ways He reveals Himself be as "fuel" to meditate upon, to strengthen your heart and a springboard for worship to..." —A.

"Bless the LORD, O MY SOUL (-Psalm 103:1)..."
"BLESS" (*Speak well of or Praise*) always implies a strong affection for or gratitude: A Celebration of His Attributes, A Grateful Celebration of Him, and the gracious blessings He bestows. We BLESS and praise Him, with *every* part of our *whole* being, gratefully speaking well of Him, who is "LORD". The Word, reveals Him in several beautiful aspects, like a jewel with its various facets of brilliance that capture and captivate the mind and influence our affections where the heart and mind unite to *Speak well of Him, Rise up to Praise Him, and to BLESS Him.*
12 REASONS TO BLESS HIM:

- * *BLESS the LORD!* (Psalm 103:1)
- * BLESS the LORD! — who is GOD (Gen 2:4-5)
- * BLESS the LORD! — who PROVIDES (Gen 22) (Abraham to Issac: *The LORD will PROVIDE!*)
- * BLESS the LORD !— who is the SELF EXISTENT One (Ex 3:13-15) (The Great I Am — in need of nothing or no one outside of Himself.)
- * BLESS the LORD! — who is the FAITHFUL COVENANT KEEPING ONE. (Deut 7:9) (He is

faithful, reliable, trustworthy, who has never failed to keep His PROMISE, nor ever will!)

* BLESS The LORD! — who is UNCHANGING (Mal 3:6) (He is forever the same: Immutable; Unchanging in His Person, His Power, His promises, His Love and His Word!)

* BLESS The LORD! — who is the SOVEREIGN KING (Isaiah 45) (He is over all; He rules and reigns Sovereignly over His Creation, His Salvation and Man's Eternal Destination!)

* BLESS the LORD! — my HELPER and SUSTAINER (Psalm 121:3)

* BLESS the LORD! — the CREATOR of HEAVEN and EARTH- -(Psalm 121:3)

* BLESS the LORD! — HOLY and REVEREND is His Name (Psalm 111:9)

These are some ways the LORD'S name is revealed. To *BLESS The LORD* speaks of Him in His many facets of brilliance and blessings of graciousness and mercy which come forth from Him. To *BLESS THE LORD* includes all that He is. These few verses show some of His splendor and majesty that are revealed in scripture as: LORD, GOD, PROVIDER, SELF-EXISTENT, COVENANT KEEPING, UNCHANGING, SOVEREIGN KING, HELPER, SUSTAINER, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, and HOLY! It is to *this* ONE that King David rally's himself; speaks to himself; and chooses, irrespective of circumstances, feelings! He awakens and calls all of his being to participate in this one GLORIOUS AND PRAISE-WORTHY ADVENTURE AND ATTENTION to "BLESS THE LORD!"

BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME- BLESS HIS HOLY NAME! If you take each verse above and choose to "BLESS" Him for each aspect of His being mentioned, you will have Blessed Him, Spoken well of Him and Praised Him for 12 glorious facets! Like King David, may He hear you choose with all that is within you to BLESS the LORD — BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!"

Becky's Tips

Trustworthy

Our God is worthy of our trust. But fear, anger and jealousy can make us act without seeking His wisdom.

Consider these scenes:

- Your child does not fit into the small group that meets to share history studies. The other children seem to either ignore him or pick on him.
- You want to go to a Bible study and you find the children's program ideal for your child. He seems disinterested but won't share with you, "why".
- Everyone enjoys the read-aloud time except Susie.
- My son appears to agree with me and seems to intend to obey but unless I stay right with him he doesn't get any work done.
- All of my children learn differently. How will I cope with that?

As we consider these scenarios, we can be encouraged that they all have something in common. God goes to great and very personal extremes to get our hearts. He is vastly concerned with how we depend on Him. When God is guiding our problem solving he is capable to take all of the variables into consideration and guide us into drawing a conclusion that fits our precise situation. That fact should give us great comfort and peace.

Now you are thinking, "So, what do I do?" Ask Him. You will be delighted and relieved as you are given wisdom that is practical and possible.

Consider these easy steps:

1. Relax. Don't rush to solve everything the way you know everyone else would solve it.
2. Remind each other that God is doing something great as you work to solve this problem.
3. Check with each other to see if you REALLY do understand that God loves the teacher and discipline. Do each of you see His love in difficulty and differences?
4. Name the problem. Ask God what you should best do with that problem to contribute to Kingdom business.
5. While waiting for God to show you priority steps to take with your problem or situation, continue to keep your schedule, read aloud, make and check assignments, carry on engagement learning.

"In all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6

Love,

Becky