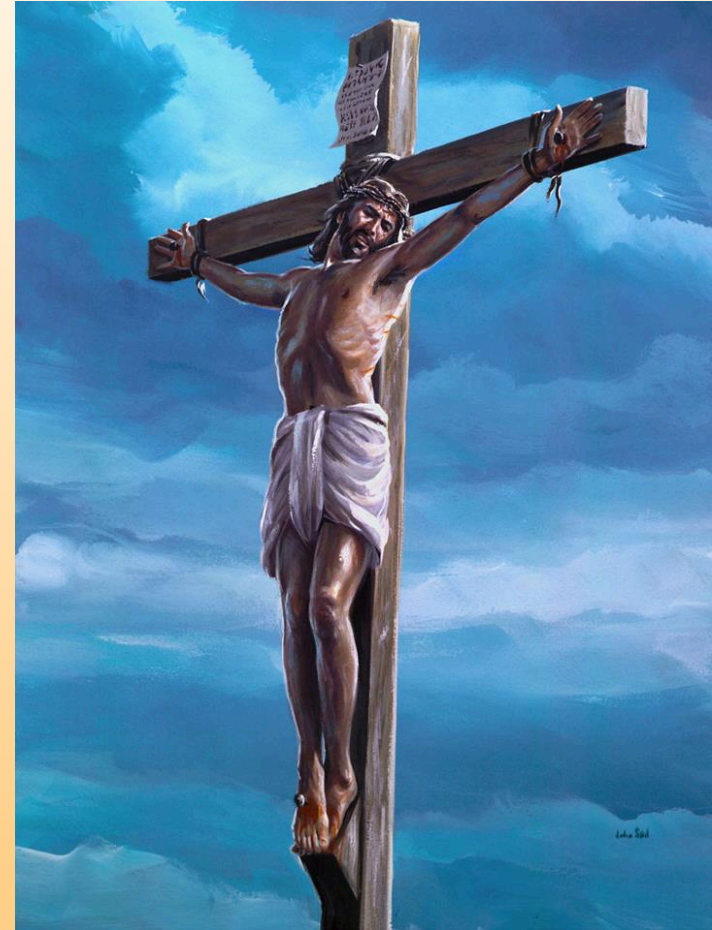


Victory in the Wilderness

Luke 19: 10



"For the Son of Man has come to seek
and to save that which was lost"
Luke 19:10.



I. Introduction: SON OF MAN

The role of Jesus Christ as the Son of Man is crucial in the victory that God already won in the great conflict between good and evil. Through the understanding of the Son of Man we can better comprehend God's love and the essence of His character.



“Ungrudgingly, Jesus took our nature upon himself to impart to us what was his, and to become both Son of God and Son of Man in common with us.”

John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, 2:12:2.



"Why is Jesus called the "Son of Man"? The common understanding is that "Son of God" implies his deity, which it does, and that "Son of Man" implies his humanity, which it does too. He was a son of man, that is, a human being. And he is the Son of God, in that he has always existed... He is the Second Person of the Trinity with all of the divine nature fully in him... The term "Son of Man" is probably taken from Daniel 7. And if you read that chapter you'll see that the Son of Man is a very exalted figure: not just a human figure but an exalted figure in the history of redemption. "Son of Man" has the double meaning of human being and, according to Daniel 7, exalted heavenly one. And Jesus means to communicate both of those."

John Piper, *Desiring God*

“He by whom all things were made was made one of all things. The Son of God became the Son of man. The Word Who is God before all time became flesh at the appointed time. The maker of the sun was made under the sun. He Who fills the world lays in a manger, great in the form of God but tiny in the form of a servant; this was in such a way that neither was His greatness diminished by His tininess, nor was His tininess overcome by His greatness.”
Augustine



“Although born of a virgin and by the Holy Spirit, Jesus is in any case Son of Man, because a virgin is human. What is born of flesh is flesh. And who is born of a human is called human, the mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ.”

Ambrose, 337 – 397 A.D.



“The Son of God is crucified, not according to his divine nature, but according to his human. The Son of Man created the stars according to his divine nature.”
Thomas Aquinas



“Be careful, exceedingly careful as to how you dwell upon the human nature of Christ. Do not set Him before the people as a man with the propensities of sin. He is the second Adam. The first Adam was created a pure, sinless being, without a taint of sin upon him; he was in the image of God. He could fall, and he did fall through transgressing. Because of sin, his posterity was born with inherent propensities of disobedience. But Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity. He was assailed with temptations in the wilderness, as Adam was assailed with temptations in Eden.”

Ellen G. White, 13MR p. 18.

“We want a personal, individual experience today. Today, we want Christ abiding with us. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of man has been lifted up, that we might look and live. There is but one plan of salvation. There is but one process by which the soul may be healed of its wounds. Look to the Man of Calvary.”

Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, April 9, 1889, par. 11.



II. Context



The structure of the Gospel of Luke

In	1: 1 – 4	Search for Authentic Narrative about Jesus
1	1: 5 – 2: 50	Incarnation (Prophecies, John the Baptist and Jesus)
2	2: 50 – 4: 30	Nazareth (Baptism, Temptation, and Ministry in Nazareth)
3	4: 31 – 7 : 50	Capernaum (Headquarters of Jesus for his Ministry in Galilee)
4	8: 1 – 9: 50	Every City and Village
5	9: 51 – 19: 27	Trip to Jerusalem (Jesus' Ministry on the road, Samaria and Judea)
6	19: 28 – 21: 38	Jerusalem (Fulfillment of Jesus' Mission)
7	22: 1 – 23: 56	Jesus' Passion, Death, and Burial
8	24: 1 – 24: 53	Jesus' Resurrection, Post-resurrection Teaching, and Ascension

There are two texts about publicans in the fifth part of the Gospel of Luke. The first one is the parable of two worshipers (18: 9 – 14). The second is our text about Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 10), the chief publican who received the visit of Jesus. These two texts are in parallel and underline the fact that all categories of the society have their place in God's heart. The publican comes home justified from the church, and Zacchaeus receives salvation for him and his house.



RECEIVING REJECTION (Luke 18: 1 – 19: 27)

A 18: 1 – 8 WICKED JUDGE and Widow

B 18: 9 - 14 PUBLICAN went home justified

C 18: 15 - 17 Children REBUKED to come to Jesus

I 18: 18 - 23 RICH YOUNG RULER (You will receive treasure in heaven)

II 18: 24 - 29 PETER (He shall receive many times more)

III 18: 30 - 34 JESUS (The Son of man will receive mockery, insults,...)

C' 18: 35 - 43 A Blind Man REBUKED to see Jesus

B' 19: 1 - 10 Salvation coming to the house of a CHIEF-PUBLICAN

A' 19: 11 - 27 Good Judge and WICKED SERVANT

III. The entire universe is acting in favor of those who are lost. The good news is that the salvation is accessible and that the price is already paid.



1. Jesus Christ,
God with us, came
to dwell among the
inhabitants of
our planet
"For the Son of Man has
come"



“The nativity mystery “conceived from the Holy Spirit and born from the Virgin Mary”, means, that God became human, truly human out of his own grace. The miracle of the existence of Jesus , his “climbing down of God” is: Holy Spirit and Virgin Mary! Here is a human being, the Virgin Mary, and as he comes from God, Jesus comes also from this human being. Born of the Virgin Mary means a human origin for God. Jesus Christ is not only truly God, he is human like every one of us. He is human without limitation. He is not only similar to us, he is like us.”

Karl Barth, Dogmatics in Outline



"... Without the incarnation, Christianity isn't even a very good story, and most sadly, it means nothing. "Be nice to one another" is not a message that can give my life meaning, assure me of love beyond brokenness, and break open the dark doors of death with the key of hope."

Michael Spencer, *Mere Churchianity: Finding Your Way Back to Jesus-Shaped Spirituality*



“Action is always superior to speech in the Gospels, which is why the Word became flesh and not newsprint.”
Colin M. Morris, Mankind My Church

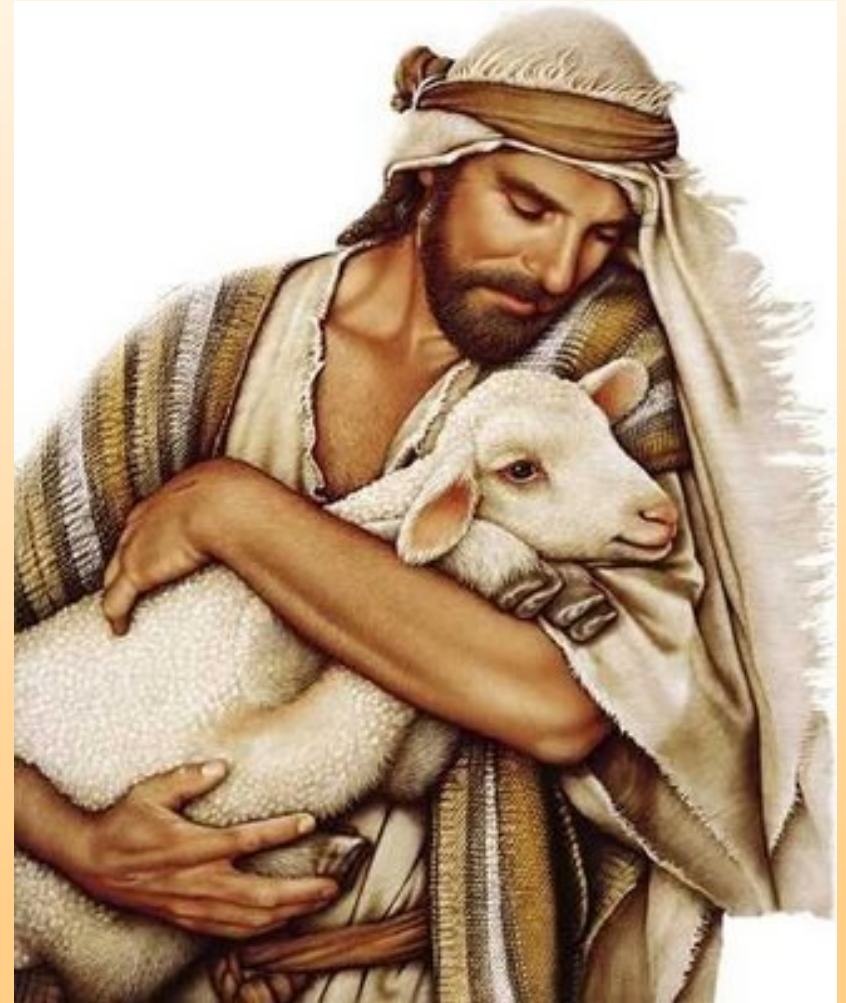


2. Jesus came to
reveal the true
character of God's love
and went in search of
those who are hungry
for that love
"To seek"



“Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.
He is the Seeker; we are the ones who
are running.”

R. C. Sproul



"It is therefore astonishing kindness in the Son of God to approach a man, from whom the great body of men recoil, and that before He is requested to do so."
John Calvin



"Our joy in this sphere comes not from self-acceptance but from our intense sense of the mercy of God accepting us into his fellowship."
John Piper



3. The purpose for God's involvement in the affairs of this planet is the salvation of mankind
"And to save"



“The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for Him Who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it, not vitiating the value of the Divine appearing by exceeding their capacity to receive it.”
Athanasius of Alexandria, On the Incarnation



“All of our inclinations and appetites and capacities and yearnings are purified and gathered up and glorified by Christ. He did not come to thin out human life; He came to set it free. All the dancing and feasting and processing and singing and building and sculpting and baking and merrymaking that belong to us, and that were stolen away into the service of false gods, are returned to us in the gospel.”

Thomas Howard



“We should dwell upon the character of our dear Redeemer and Intercessor. We should meditate upon the mission of him who came to save his people from their sins. As we thus contemplate heavenly themes, our faith and love will grow stronger, and our prayers will be more and more acceptable to God, because they will be more and more mixed with faith and love. They will be intelligent and fervent. There will be more constant confidence in Jesus, and a daily, living experience in his power to save to the utmost all that come unto God by him.”
Ellen G. White, *Christian Education*, p. 57.



4. The Salvation is for those who know their desperate situation and are in need of a Savior

“That which was lost”

Luke 19:10.

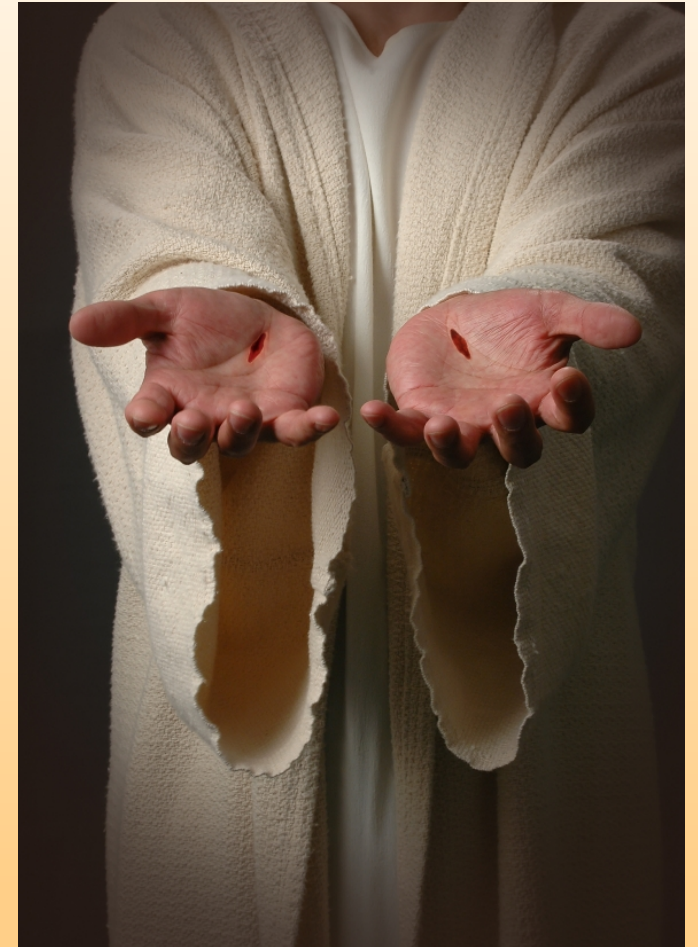


“Without Jesus we are completely worthless.”
Warren McGrew



“Without Jesus we are damned. Here is the good news. “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only son.” John 3: 18. We were all condemned because of our sinful nature. Praise God for His salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.”

Rick Davis



“Without Jesus, we are lost in a way that we can't fully understand until we find Him and the truth that He shows us. When we look at Jesus and His life and death we see God as He really is...in all His honesty and love. And so, we are determined to put Jesus in the centre of all we do here.”
Kevin Colwell



V. Conclusion



"We must put self and selfishness under our feet, and exemplify in our lives the spirit of self-sacrifice and disinterested benevolence manifested by Jesus when He was upon earth."
Ellen G. White,
Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2. p. 77.



“Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.”
Augustine



"We err not because the truth
is not visible, but because
erring is more comfortable."
Martin Luther



“When Christ was on the earth, he went about doing good. It was his mission to help those who needed help, to seek the lost, to rescue the perishing, to lift up the bowed down, to break the yoke of oppression from those who were in bondage, to heal the sick, and to speak words of sympathy and consolation to all the sorrowing and distressed. He was not often found among the most wealthy and honored, nor with those who were seeking their own ease and pleasure. He went among the humble and the poor. He sought out those who most felt the need of his help. The more we are imbued with the spirit of Christ, the more we shall seek to do for our fellow-creatures; and the more we do for others, the greater will be our love for the work, and the greater our delight in following the footsteps of our divine Master.”
Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, October 23, 1888, par. 7.

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