

Life of Christ

review--cross-sacrifice of Christ--very costly bc He experienced loneliness/ wrath....if the cross was the cruc, why did He not just come and die? why did He live out His life? It was costly too--He gave up heavenly life, He lived in a humble way (no home or things, poverty etc), He was misunderstood, misrepresented, unappreciated, REJECTED etc. **think....what did He get out of it?? see Klip's triangle look at JC's life & return to this question

goal--live like JC, see from His perspective KEEP LOOKING DOWN



1. INTRO

Big Picture--see map of universe (do you still think you are at the center??) CS Lewis calls it the 'silent planet'...the whole universe is pictured as full of life, (angelic and other kinds of unfallen creatures) and full of light except our planet! The enemy has taken over here, and we are shrouded from the rest of the universe by a cloud-like covering--we live in darkness, and have blinders on so we cannot see out--we can only see horizontally (2 Cor 4:4). The other beings long to look into the silent planet. Earth is the rebel planet--the rival kingdom has been set up, we live in a battleground. The system is designed to throw off God's authority & place SELF at center. It would be nothing for God to erase planet YET--His desire is to win it back--glorify Himself. As we have seen, God has a plan to redeem us. His goal is to be our God, and we will be His people.

Grace of our Lord JC tho He was rich yet for your sake He became poor that you thru His poverty might become rich
Purpose of JC coming: (2 Cor 8:9, Jn 8:38) 1) Cross 2) offer KOG 3) Disciple--live as an example, train others, looking for willing people--(Mt 9:12 came to sick) (2 Cor 4:6-7) empty broken vessels to fill & shine light through. We are going to look at 2 aspects of the example JC set:

Destiny--what I was made for

Humility--who I am

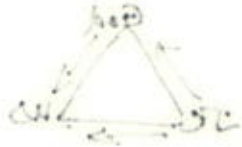
"I know Him because I am from Him and He sent me"

1. Destiny: strong sense--JC aware of Who He is and what He came for ('sent' (Jn 7:28, 29, 8:23) He was so caught up w/ this, willing to sacrifice, at great cost--affect attitude toward suffering also--lived w/o fear or confusion rather with great peace & confidence b/ His eyes were open to the REAL nature of the universe. As Martha puts it: KEEP LOOKING DOWN (from God's perspective) vs horizontally

JC lived daily with this awareness. Consider His habit of getting alone to pray. Murray p. 92-93 need for refreshment--to drink in the light & air of heaven (we need this too! p.94)
Real Murray more later from Martha

2. Humility--Colin Brown: gentle, mild friendliness; balanced intelligent decent outlook in contrast to license; in contrast to attitude which demands that my rights should be upheld at all costs; opposed to unbridled anger, harshness, brutality and self-expression; a concrete expression of christian love; In the Greek world (& rival kingdom!!) w/ it's anthropocentric view of man, lowliness is looked on as shameful, to be avoided and overcome by thought and act. In the NT, w/ it's theocentric view of man, the words are used to describe those events that bring a man into a right relationship w/ God and fellow men; humility is to know how lowly we really are before God--this is joy & bliss, b/ it permits one to share in the royal

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rule of heaven; willingness to ~~serve~~ conforming to Christ's example--on one hand He became obedient unto death, even the uttermost shame of the cross. On the other hand He had no other support than the incredible promise of the faithfulness of God

→ Read
Just points
Read

So-- if anyone could have justifiably come with pride it was Christ, yet JC was humble & dependant on God (p. 23 Humility by Murray). How much do we see our life like Christ's? Sadly we must admit we have grown up in the silent planet--we still have some blinders on-- we are still affected by the philosophy of this world which is in essence--PRIDE. ~~SELF~~ the center. Living to gratify my senses, living for things (1 Jn--2 lusts) selfishness makes the world go around JC came--SO diff from us radically detached yet radically involved---in not of Kosmos (Abe see p. 19 FB Meyer)

SELF

II. OFFER KOG

Part of God's redemptive plan to win back silent planet were the OT promises to the Jews about the coming KOG. Ezek 37:21-28 JC came to offer it w/ contingency--their receiving of it. Early in His ministry (He went first to house of Israel) He would say 'KOG is at hand (mk 1:15), do you want it?' They'd respond 'this is not what I've been waiting all my life to see. You are not what I thought--who are you?--you must be a nut' JC says 'I'll show you I'm God's Messiah/King' and He performed miracles. Their incredible conclusion: 'you are from Satan !!(Mt 12:24) No we don't want what you bring--we'll kill you instead' JC: 'I knew you would respond this way but it doesn't stop My purpose: mystery KOG is soon to be revealed' (however, you will not have the excuse at judgement that you were waiting for the promised messiah king--I offered it and you rejected it) JC w/drew (Mt 12:14-15) and worked w/ the disciples taught in parables (Mt 13:10) not granted for others to understand) These kingdom parables (ie seed & leaven) show: in spite of the rejection of JC, and the small number of followers, the KOG (ie the mystery kingdom--the church) would expand rapidly--(like in Acts 2) Later in His life He did NOT teach: KOG at hand. Now; Jews will be scattered, KOG will come after a wait (then it won't be contingent)

John the B.
miracles

God has made Him both Lord and Christ--you crucified

Can you imagine the horror when they see what/Who they have rejected? (Zech 12:10) Some did in Acts 2:36-37 and were saved by God's grace. Individuals could still change their mind about JC, but in terms of God's strategy for the nation & KOG, it was too late. Here is another aspect of His grace--it was not until His final days that He officially w/drew the offer 2 days before crucifixion

Mt 21 Triumphant entry

wicked tenant, see :37, 42, 43, 45

Mt 23 O Jerusalem removed offer of KOG

woes--final blast v. 31 unwilling' Jesus wept over Jerusalem

Mt 24 delay then return

However He was not thwarted because

III. DISCIPLES

JC came to live as an example for them and to train them. He sought teachable, willing followers who would carry on His work when He was gone (empty vessels). What sort of example? SO different from our perspective..that's why we need to: KEEP LOOKING DOWN Understand the life of JC in terms of His Destiny--

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to win for God Therefore He was controversial--He constantly exposed the way they lived to show KOG so diff from kingdom of this world Jn 18:36-37 (expose by contrast)

JC used many word pictures like In 2 Cana wedding--He filled empty pots w/ new wine, just like He would fill them with new life (this was in contrast to Pharisees focus on the outer, ceremonial cleansing).

The disciples were heavily influenced by Pharisees attitude (ie: thinking of this kingdom). This could be seen in: shooing kids away, or being scandalized that He spoke w/ Samaritan woman etc. Also they were ignorant and failed-- (but He never rebuked them for that--only for lack of faith) The disciples were still wearing some blinders--the crowds were somewhat brainwashed--they could hardly accept JC w/o Pharisees approval (Mt 12:23)--they thought the Pharisees had it all together. Jesus' view was totally opposite! He constantly EXPOSED them--self- R+ hypocrites--only care about the external and ignore the crucial inward area of thoughts and motives (ie clean outside of cup full of filth). Mt 5:20 They don't have it all together--they are sons of Hell!! *hard for the rich to enter the KOG - camel's eye of needle*

Here are 3 examples of JC being controversial, and exposing the religious leaders (many more)

Series of Contrasts

1. view of reality/universe supernatural vs natural Mk 12, Mt 22 Sadduces (blinders on) these were like modern day liberals or humanists--they denied the supernatural. They thought they'd catch JC, their question was designed to discredit life after death--ress life and therefore discredit the authority of JC by reducing res to absurdity. He says: "you are wrong" and comes at them from an unexpected perspective, here JC exposes their ignorance & unbelief *I am the God of Abraham - present tense*

Woman and 7 husbands
apple
Reed Schaeffer
Application (2 Cor 4:18-5:11) seen vs unseen Col 3:1-3, Eph 1:3 Schaeffer -- 2 halves of universe (p. 62-65 True eternally)
Spirituality: As we have our blinders more & more removed, there is offer a great temptation to despair. Despair b/ I am so diff from God--will I ever change?? Also despair b/ I see that this world is Satan's kingdom, yet I love it, I'm comfortable in it--how can I ever make a difference--it's so pervasive and seductive. It's overwhelming!! Yet---God is supernatural--this is reality--He enables me to live as JC lived as I depend on God--that is The God of the Universe He asked Abe (Gen 17:14) "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?" Jeremiah answered that question in Jer 32:17.

You have made the universe & your great power *nothing is too difficult for you*

2. view of Scripture tradition (or end) vs means of meeting God-- JC taught w/ authority- 'you say... but I say...' -(not like scribes Mt: 7:29) glass (ex--night lens in Gulf War) to see reality - *word illumines for*

Mt 15, (Mk 7) highlight: tradition, corban (quotes Moses), invalidating the Word of God, (sidelight :12) blind guides. Here Jc exposes Pharisees once again--Rabbi's taught that no traditional law could contradict Scripture--they stand self-condemned-- JC points out how they have circumvented the law--one of the big 10!! They did NOT change thier minds--they rejected JC and His offer of God's R+--they felt they didn't need it b/ their external cleansing was enough!! they felt they were clean w/in!!

Mt 12:9f breaking of Sabbath traditions they were exposed and furious see :14 Insanity of unbelief

Application: Jn 5:39-40 you search... In the Word, we can meet God--His love letter to me. Here I can find out who I am (humility) and what I'm living for (destiny). God's Word is full of instructions for survival on the silent planet--for JC the Bible was: the way, His food, His weapon . Jesus uses so many word pictures for us--bread, living water, sight--light for path, life etc. We need to have our minds constantly

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renewed--living in this world is like being in a fog--we need the clear reality of God's perspective--we're being changed into same image

3. view of people w/drawn vs involved The religious leaders had a perverted view of holiness: to avoid sinners altogether; only themselves and their big shot friends were imp. (This imbalance was a pendulum swing from OT prob w/ not being separate). They took it to a ridiculous extreme. Again we see JC constantly exposing the way they lived. Examples: Good Samaritan Lk 10, He touched the leper Mt 8:3, He touched the dead girl Lk 8:54, He cared for the woman w/ hemorrhage Mt 9, see p. 179 Stott

Pass thru the air of the gentiles

Real

Application p. 23 Murray service & compassion. Jc washed the disciples feet (Sanders--' w/ one hand He held together the universe & w/ the other hand, He washed their feet' Jn 15:13) My destiny--to serve Mt 9:12, 36-38 He came for the sick--Mk 6:34, 37

other examples: Authority: lord it over vs serve \$\$: selfish--blow trumpet when giving, or not use for caring for parents vs faithful to use for God Family: idol vs love less than God, train in His ways Prayer: public show, vain rep vs relationship w/ Father Suffering: revenge vs glorify God Worship: lips vs heart Salvation: merit vs mercy (Pharisee & publican) Morality: outward vs inward (Stott--Christian holiness==fruit tree, not christmas tree!)

Sanders: Jn. 13:15

recap JC was so diff from us--Bible teaches we are becoming more like Him need to have eyes opened more & more to Big picture--God's perspective take the blinders off We are in mystery KOG--my role in min is VERY significant 'so send I you...' Jn 20 :21 we are lights in this darkness we are like sheep among wolves we are to demonstrate these contrasts like JC did--and as we do, the world will react--(JN 17:14) Are we controversial??

He washed the disc feet

IV CONCLUSION

as we:

- See >sacrifice of JC
- exp >His love & power in our present reality
- see >His perspective on this world

we can

walk as lights

"He lives in heaven and walks on earth"

JC came to live as an example, not just b/ He got a kick out of healing-- His whole life shows a teaching lesson....every action is a dramatic picture of how we can live---His values can be ours!! Even though we are so opposite from Him, we can be retrained on every level. Many of us haven't really suffered like He did, yet we can empathize w/ Him and imitate Him (Jn 15:18f) Rom. 12:1-2 Transformed mind

this enables me to live as citizen of heaven now, gives the courage to conquer any difficulty

I can live like JC :detached & involved **sobering-- I will meet JC one day (2Cor 5:10) what will I say if I wasted my life?? (Jn 12:43, Gal 1:10)

we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ....to receive what is due us, whether good or bad

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I can fight and have substantial victory over pride--that attitude that says "I'm in it for me, I'm good enough (or too bad) for God etc. The way to victory is through death to self...the way up is down. WE must each acknowledge: I am called to this life---yet confess: I am completely unable to live it... it is so painful to see the life of JC and His humility and destiny and then to admit--I don't have what it takes.....GOOD!!! you qualify! as a broken empty vessel!

take my yoke & go yoke

We are like the disciples. they really didn't get the humility thing for a long time. JC said: MT 11:29 yet in Lk 22:24 they were still debating who was the greatest--Last Supper!! Yet after HS given Peter can say 1 Pet 5:5-6 This brings us to the challenge before us:

clothe in humility
humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God

Call to Cultivate:

and learn of me for I am gentle & humble in heart & you shall find rest for your souls.

Humility---who I am attitude of servant p. 50-51 Murray

Teach servanthood

Destiny--what I'm made for Phil 1:20, 2 Cor 5:9

Read P. 3 Murray

1 Pet 2:4-11 Holiness p. 57 Humility/ in not of/ live horizontally vs KEEP LOOKING DOWN Jn 12: 43 glory of men vs God p. 207 Stott How? by being occupied w/ God. My 1st reaction==How can I glorify Him?--trust Him **personal example So, like JC we should frequently drink in that air/light of heaven prayer & word of vital daily importance ministry==privilege to serve

Yield (old saints term) means: I am not the center of the universe He is. I want to live for: receiving His life & letting it shine through me. warning: initially feel so far from Him, increasingly we will see our own impotenceAND His greatness!! This is not passive but active--living like Christ is not automatic (Murray p. 14-15) It is a deliberate choice, sought in strong desire, embraced by my new will. Abiding in Him is a deep life process involving brokenness.

?????What did JC get out of it?

Joy Jn 15, love the Father Jn 14:21, satisfaction--His soul was nourished--it fed His spirit Jn4:34, peace Jn 16:33, fulfillment--'to feed the crowds is to receive baskets of provision, Judgement of the Enemy Jn 12:31, honor, Jn 17:24-26 glory, inheritance--Eph 1:18 Body of Christ Rev 19, Victory Rev 11:15b

win back silent planet

(Murray p. 19-20, 148, 152)

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