

STARTING POINT

Where faith takes off



Lesson 3- Jesus: God Saves

Ultimately, every religion is trying to answer the same question: “How do things go well for me after I die?”

LESSON THREE:

Jesus: God Saves

Ultimately, every religion is trying to answer the same question: “How do things go well for me after I die?” The answer Jesus gives might surprise you.

You be the judge. Who do you think is disqualified from Heaven? Who gets in?

The “Religious Standard”

The problem with the "Religious Standard" is this: You _____ not to, you _____ it anyway, and now you are at odds with God.

The “Good Person Standard”

The problem with the "Good Person" standard is that you just don't know how _____ is good enough.

The “Culture Standard”

The problem with the "Culture Standard" is that cultural _____ are at odds with one another.

What about God's standard?

Section 1 - God's Standard

A. God requires that all people be perfect.

Matthew 5:48 “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Luke 10:25-28 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷ He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

B. God sees the way we really are.

Romans 3:23 “There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

1 John 1:8 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

James 2:10 “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

The problem with trying to be a good person is that I have already done _____ things.

C. Jesus announces the verdict of all people.

Matthew 25:41,46 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels... Then they will go away to eternal punishment,’”

Proverbs 11:7 “When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing.”

Section 2 - God's Announcement - The Gospel

A. Christianity is good news

Luke 2:10 "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

There's a world of difference between good news and good advice.

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Law of sin and death = When you _____ something _____.

Law of the Spirit of life = Forgiveness and _____ through Jesus.

Romans 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do... God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

What keeping the Law cannot do (get us into heaven), God _____ by sending his own son, Jesus, who offered himself as payment for your sin.

B. Trading Places

1. Jesus Takes

Isaiah 53:5-6 "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.... the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2. Jesus Gives

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

God loved, God _____. We believe, we _____.

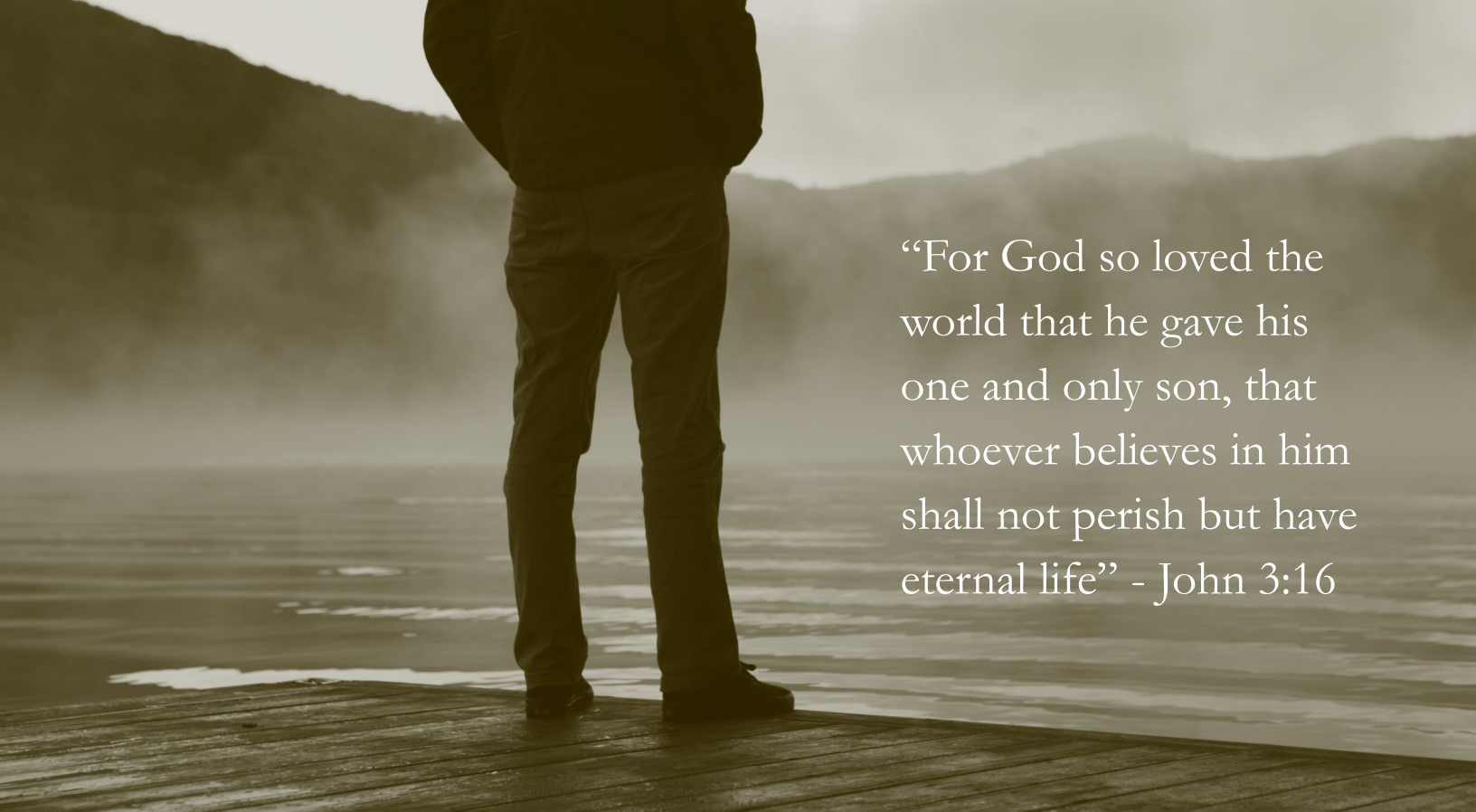
Conclusion

Luke 18:9-14 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-- robbers, evildoers, adulterers-- or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' ¹³ "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' ¹⁴ "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus didn't teach that good people go to heaven. He taught that _____ people go to heaven.



Christianity is
good news.



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” - John 3:16

Questions

1. What comes to mind when you think about the word “sin”?

2. In your childhood, did you interpret Christianity as being good news or good rules?

3. Read John 8:2-11. What two things did Jesus have to say to this woman at the end of the story? Why are both vital for growing in faith?

4. Others might condemn you. You might condemn you. God does not condemn you because he condemned Jesus in your place. If you believe this for the first time, congratulations! You’re a Christian. Make sure you tell someone and share the good news!
