

JESUS' LIFE IN FOUR WORDS

Int.

1. Aim: To tell the story of Jesus in just four words.
2. The greatest story ever told is the story of Jesus. Matt. 1:18-25 - birth of Jesus - but the birth is only the beginning. It is his whole life and death that makes the story.
3. What Jesus did for you and me was an incredible demonstration of genuine love. ¹
4. What Jesus did for us, we do not deserve.
 - a. What He did for us was an act of grace.
 - b. We could never repay the debt that we owe Him.
 - c. But, we can (and should) be grateful for Him and His life-giving sacrifice!
 - d. Not a day should pass without us expressing our thanks to God for what His Son has done on our behalf.
 - e. "But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).
5. Jesus did four amazing things for us.

Discussion

I. HE CAME

- A. He came from heaven to earth.
 1. He Himself said, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:38).
 2. In heaven Jesus shared in the glory of the Father "before the world was" (John 17:5), but He left heaven to come to earth.

3. John 1:1 and 14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us"
4. Why?
 - a. "...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" 1 Timothy 1:15.
 - b. He did not come on a sight seeing tour of the earth.
 - (1) He was the agent of Creation - So He knew what it was like
 - (2) Heaven was a much better place - so He did not come to look around
 - c. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - d. If Jesus had not come, we could not be saved from our sins.

B. Consider some of the beautiful words of the song "He Still Came:" # 377

1. Yet the King of kings left heaven to become a lowly man, He left all heaven's glory to fulfill His Father's plan. He still came just for me.
2. He still came. Knowing all He would endure, He still came.
3. Disregarding every cost, from the manger to the cross, He still came just for me, He still came.

II. HE WENT

A. Preaching the word

1. Mark 1:14 "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
2. Luke 4:16-22 v. 22 "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?"
"Beautiful words" TCNT

3. Luke 8:1 "And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,"
4. Sermon on the Mount - Matt. 5-7
 - a. Beatitudes
 - b. Similitudes
 - c. Comparing the law to His laws
 - d. Teaching on prayer - judging and many other basic rules of living
 - e. Matt. 7:28-29 - the people were astonished because he taught them as one having authority
5. John 7:46 NKJV "No man ever spoke like this Man!"
 - a. He spoke with divine authority
 - b. His words were more applicable to man's needs than any other was able to speak
 - c. He addressed the heart and conscience
 - d. He spoke for the Father as well as for himself ²
6. "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people." Matt. 4:23

B. He went to the cross.

1. When the mob came to take Him in the Garden of Gethsemane,
2. He could have called "twelve legions of angels" (72,000) to protect Himself (Matthew 26:53). but He didn't.
3. Jesus had the power to run away from the questions of the Jewish council, Pilate, and Herod, but He chose not to do so.
4. Instead, He endured mockery, physical and mental torture, and with the help of Simon carried His cross "to the place which is called Calvary; there they crucified him" (Luke 23:33).

C. Why did our loving Lord go to the cross when He could have avoided it?

1. The Bible's answer is plain: "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24).
2. If Jesus had not gone to the cross, we would still be hopelessly lost!

III. HE STAYED

A. He stayed on the cross until He died.

1. After He was crucified, He hung on the cross for six hours - Mark 15:25. 34-37
2. While He was still hanging there, some mockingly spoke these words of blasphemy: "Save thyself, and come down from the cross...He saved others; himself he cannot save" - Mark 15:30. 31
3. Mt 27:40 "And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross."

4. Matt. 27:39-44
5. Did Jesus have the power to come down from the cross? Of course! But He stayed right there until the end.

B. Why? Why did Jesus stay on that cross?

1. Because of His great love for us and
2. Because He knew that in God's plan, His death was a necessity.
3. He knew that he had to taste death for every man - Heb. 2:9
4. He knew that with his blood the church would be purchased. - Acts 20:28
5. Heb. 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

IV. HE RETURNED

A. He returned to heaven, where He sat down at the right hand of the Father

1. Mark 16:19 "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."
2. Acts 1:9-11
3. He went "into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" Hebrews 9:24
4. Upon His return to heaven, He was given "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom" Daniel 7:13,14

B. There He "ever liveth to make intercession for us" Hebrew 7:25

CONCLUSION

1. The Greatest Story ever told is the story of Jesus:
 - a. He came to this earth from heaven
 - i. His birth was absolutely unique
 - ii. There was none other like it, and it will never be re-enacted
 - iii. He was the only child ever born into the human family whose life was pre-existent
 - b. He went preaching the word and finally went to the cross
 - i. Jesus was the greatest preacher who ever lived on this earth
 - ii. He sacrificed himself for us
 - c. He stayed on the cross until he died - He shed his blood for me and you
 - d. He returned to Heaven to be on the right hand of God.
 - i. Jesus came from the Father
 - ii. And he Returned to the Father
2. The story of our life can be changed by His life
 - a. We can be born again - become a Christian -
 - b. Come into contact with his blood through baptism
 - c. Live for him as a faithful follower of His word
 - d. And have the hope of an everlasting home with him in heaven.

Sources

1. Article by Roger Campbell - Jesus's Life in Four Words - House to House, Heart to Heart
2. Commentary on John by Guy N. Woods - p. 159

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Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org