

The Message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Today, I have a very exciting story to tell you. This is a true story! Everything I'm going to tell you actually happened.

This is a story of good vs. evil. It's a story about God, His creation and people like me and you.

This story is about God's love, your value and how far God was willing to go and what He was willing to do to rescue you from all that is evil.

In the beginning of time, God created the heavens and the earth. Before this, there was chaos and darkness, but God brought light and order.

God created every living thing...the animals that roamed, the fish in the waters and the birds in the sky. He created the rivers, the hills and the trees.

Then God created His most prized, most special and most valuable of all creation...He created people, a man and a woman. God loved them very much because they were like Him. Like family. They had a good relationship.

God told His man, "be fruitful and fill the earth with more people!" God said, "you're in charge of the earth so take good care of it." He gave them everything they needed for food and for a happy life.

Right in the middle of the place where they lived there was a forbidden tree that God told them to never eat from. It was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them that if they disobey Him and eat from the tree, that they would be separated from the life and blessings that only He could give them.

Well, guess what happened? God's enemy, the devil came in the form of a snake and convinced them to eat from that tree. They rebelled against God and they sinned! When sin entered into their lives they were cut off from God! They were separated from the abundant life that God had given them.

When they sinned against God, it created a big barrier that would be impossible for them to overcome. They were cursed and the devil became like their slave master.

This became a big problem for all the people born after them because this horrible condition of death and separation from God came upon everyone that would ever live! Sin was like a terrible disease that spread to all people. It doomed all of us to an eternity without God in hell.

When this happened, God did not love His people any less. He still loves all people very much!

So, God had a plan to solve the problem! God had a plan to destroy the big ugly barrier called SIN that separated you and me from Him! God made a way to take away sin!

Because God is perfect and holy and righteous, there was only one way to free His people from the torment of sin. There was only 1 way to destroy the barrier of sin. There was only 1 way to rescue you and me.

To pay for our sins it required an innocent sacrifice. The innocent had to die for the guilty. The innocent had to pay a debt He didn't owe for those who owed a debt they couldn't pay.

So, God's plan was to come into our world as the Son of God in the form of a man having no sin. His name is Jesus!

Many years ago, Jesus was born of a virgin woman named Mary in a small town in Israel. He grew up like any ordinary person in that time. But, because He was born without the horrible disease of sin, he was able to live a sinless life.

When Jesus was about 30 years old he began telling people that God had sent Him to destroy the barrier of sin so that they could be saved and have a relationship with God, their Creator, the One Who loves them dearly.

God also gave Jesus amazing power to help people! Some people who were sick got better. Crippled people began to walk. He even helped some blind people have sight again!

All of the good things Jesus was doing to help people were to prove that He was truly the Son of God and that He was sent by God to take away the horrible disease of sin that separated us from God.

Finally, the time came for God's plan to finally be fulfilled.

Because Jesus was demonstrating the power of God and He was preaching a new message about the Kingdom of God and the salvation that would come to all people, the religious leaders were very angry. They arrested Jesus, tried him before the courts and found Him guilty.

The penalty for guilt in those days was to die while hanging on two pieces of wood that formed the shape of a cross.

The people didn't know what they were doing...they didn't know that this was all part of the plan. Jesus could have called 10,000 angels to stop this from happening, but He willingly gave His life that day.

So, why did this perfect man have to die?

Jesus was innocent! Jesus was without sin! You are guilty! We are all sinners!

Jesus was the sinless sacrifice that took upon Himself my sin and your sin so that we could be clean. So that we could be free! So that we could know God.

Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? To take away your sins forever! Jesus was the 1 to pay the penalty for our guilt.

Jesus is the One and Only Way back to God!

The great part of the story is that after Jesus paid the price on the Cross, He conquered sin! He conquered hell! He conquered the devil!

And, God raised Jesus from the dead on the 3rd day!

When this happened, Jesus totally destroyed the barrier of SIN!

Now, finally the way was made open for our relationship to be restored with God, again! The door to LIFE is wide open to all people again!

Before, we were locked out! Now, we are welcome!

Before, we were destined for eternity in hell. Now, through Jesus, we have the assurance of eternal life in Heaven with God.

But, there's 1 condition. We must believe in Jesus! We must believe in Who He is and what He did for us!

The Holy Scriptures tell us that God loved the people of the world so much that He gave His Son as a sacrifice on the cross. So that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life.

God has already made His decision to accept you because He loves you!

Jesus already made His decision to welcome you because He gave His life for you!

Millions and millions of people including I, have made our decision to believe in Jesus and receive the new life He came to give us.

We've all made our decision, now today you can make your decision too!

You may not fully understand everything I have said here today. But, you may be saying to yourself "I feel something good inside my heart about this story...something inside is telling me that this story is true."

You may be thinking to yourself right now:

"I don't want anything to keep me away from God anymore."

"I want to be saved from the curse that comes from sin."

"I want to know who God is."

"I want to believe in Jesus."

If this describes how you feel, I want you to pray this prayer out loud.

Prayer:

God in Heaven - I believe in You. - I believe Jesus died on the cross - to take away my sin. - I believe You raised Jesus from the dead - to defeat death and hell. - I choose to believe today. - I receive this new life - Jesus came to give to me. - Thank you for saving me. - Amen.