

Filthy Rotten Sinners

Message 01 of the series, "Jesus Saves"

"This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'—and I am the worst of them all." 1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT)

I. Jesus came into the world to save sinners like Barabbas.

"Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd—anyone they wanted. This year there was a notorious prisoner, a man named Barabbas."

Matthew 27:15-16 (NLT)

Note: Barabbas was a violent rebel and murderer.

"One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising." Mark 15:7 (NLT) "Barabbas was in prison for taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government, and for murder." Luke 23:19 (NLT)

So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him... But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Matthew 27:17-26 (NIV)

Note: Ironically, Jesus came to shed his blood for everyone.

"...without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness." Hebrews 9:22 (NLT)

"In those days you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:12-13 (NLT)

"...this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many." Matthew 26:28 (NLT)

Note: Jesus is our scapegoat.

"He will lay both of his hands on the goat's head and confess over it all the wickedness, rebellion, and sins of the people of Israel. In this way, he will transfer the people's sins to the head of the goat. Then a man specially chosen for the task will drive the goat into the wilderness. As the goat goes into the wilderness, it will carry all the people's sins upon itself into a desolate land." Leviticus 16:21-22 (NLT)

"All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all." Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

"He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." Psalm 103:10 (NLT)

II. Jesus came into the world to save sinners like the two men crucified with him.

"Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left." Luke 23:32-33 (NLT)

Note: The men crucified with Jesus were guilty sinners.

"...he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Isaiah 53:12 (NIV)

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." ... The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers... called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ... One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been

sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:34-43 (NLT)

Note: Ironically, Jesus could only save us by dying for us.

"Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live." Galatians 1:4 (NLT)

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

"But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'" Galatians 3:13 (NLT) (see also Deuteronomy 21:23)

III. Jesus came into the world to save sinners like me.

a. All of us need a scapegoat.

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23 (NIV)

b. All of us need a savior.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

c. All of us must decide whether or not we will place our faith in Jesus.

"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. For God says, 'At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.' Indeed, the 'right time' is now. Today is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 5:21-6:2 (NLT)

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24 (NIV)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. What is the best trade/exchange you've ever seen? (i.e. car, sports, job)
2. Share the name of someone who surprised you when they became a Christian.
3. Read Matthew 27:15-26 and Luke 23:32-43. Who can you relate to most?
 - Barabbas
 - The thief who mocked and questioned Jesus identity
 - The thief who asked Jesus to save him
4. Why do you think Jesus had to die?
5. Read Psalm 103:8-16. What do these verses say about the character of God?
What do these verses say about us?
6. Read Luke 9:18-20. When it comes to Jesus "to believe or not believe" is the biggest question we must all answer. What do you personally believe about Jesus?