

Does Jesus Make Sense?

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March 27, 2011

Introduction:

Father Flarity woke up one morning feeling great then he looked out on the front lawn of the rectory and saw a dead jackass. He decided to call the local police station.

He called and Sgt. Bush answered. Father Flarity asked "how are you today?"

Sgt. Bush said "fine, what can I do for you today?"

Father Flarity identified himself and said that "there is a dead jackass out on my front lawn. I thought that you could have a couple of the lads come and take care of it."

Sgt. Bush considering himself somewhat of a comedian said, "Father I thought that you were the one that gave last rites?"

Father Flarity replied "indeed we do and we also notify the next of kin.

Some people have trouble accepting things. In fact more and more Christianity and the Bible are under attack in today's culture. Christians have been accused of turning off their brains and just following the Bible. I don't know about you but I have to use my brain constantly to gauge what I see and hear in reference to God's word in order to know what is right and wrong or truth or falsehood. I suppose that I am considered one of those foolish people that consult that book of fables.

In order to believe in Jesus I must read his word found in the Bible. I cannot know his teachings, his life examples, and his sacrifice without reading his word. I also cannot know that he lives today and rules his church without reading the Bible.

I. Believing in Jesus Requires Faith:

Jesus never tried or even attempted to prove the existence of God. In fact the Bible opens with:

In the beginning God (Genesis 1:1)

This beginning is telling us that the Bible itself makes no attempt to prove that God exists. Jesus' main mission was not to prove that God exists but to reveal him to the people of his age and beyond. In fact his words still speak to us today telling us about the loving father who wants all to believe and come to him.

The beginning of the need for Jesus begins in the book of Genesis. In chapter 3 Adam and Eve sin against God and are cast out of the garden:

***21**The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. **22**And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." **23**So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. **24**After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^e of the Garden of Eden cherubim*

and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:21-24)

God's wrath is now turned upon man and woman. There was a great change from being in paradise and communing daily with God. To now having the wrath of God on them and having to work for everything that they get.

One of the ironies of the story is that Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, with their daily association with God they already knew the ultimate good so what did they really gain? I submit to you this morning that what they gained was knowledge of evil. Ever since, every man and woman born has had the wrath of God upon them.

Another irony was that Adam and Eve had no problems believing in God. Sadly modern day society believes that our vast knowledge makes God obsolete. We no longer need a creator that limits our behavior in any way.

So it will come down to faith to believe in a creator God who loves us and wants all of his children to believe and be obedient. Faith is the only way that we can find God. Of course we can help those around us to know and respond to God.

II. Moses an Answer:

How would mankind get back into a loving relationship with God? For thousands of years God choose certain men that had the spiritual characteristics that he could touch and communicate with. To illustrate this there is an abbreviated genealogy of the sons of man given in chapter 4 of Genesis. In chapter 5 is a more complete genealogy of the sons of God that is given. These are the ones that God spoke to from time to time but not like he did with Adam in the garden. This kept on throughout the book of Genesis. The book closes with the family of Jacob led to Egypt to survive and flourish and also to get them away from the influence of the land of Canaan.

Exodus opens with the situation in Egypt of the Israelites as slaves and so numerous that Pharaoh was nervous about controlling them. Moses was born under a curse of Pharaoh that all males 2 years old and under must be killed. As God would have it Moses was protected and set aside for God's purpose.

It was later that in the desert after the exodus from Egypt, that God directly communicated with Moses and gave him the law. This was a great blessing for although all people knew about God they did not have his law to show them how he expected them to live. Of course they knew back at the time just after the flood but chose to drift further and further away from their creator. So the Law of Moses finally gave some of the people a way to divert God's wrath for a short time. This concept of diverting God's wrath was given a special word propitiation. Most of our modern English translations of the Bible do not use this word but its roots are this far back in the Hebrew language.

Under the Law of Moses one would have to go back to the priests with sacrifices again and again because of sin. Of course these people would have to bring their animals for a sacrifice for these sins because it took the blood of the innocent to bring forgiveness and do bring a propitiation for them. What a system, you were constantly under the wrath of God and had to bring sacrifice after sacrifice for your sins and the sins of your family.

Of course during this same time the rest of the world was moving further and further away from their creator God; however, some of them still were aware and feared God the example being found

in the book of numbers. There we find Balaam a prophet that knew and feared God so much that he would only do what God told him regardless of pressure put on him by the ruler Balak. We find this story in the book of Numbers in chapters 22-24 but Balaam was eventually killed by the Israelites as recorded in Numbers chapter 31. He was the one that advised the Midianites to seduce the Israelite men into fornication with their women. The Midianites and Balaam were destroyed in punishment.

Again we see the result of God's wrath in those days. God gave his people an answer but they were supposed to be a light to the rest of the world. Sadly instead of being a light to the rest of the world the Israelites again and again were dragged away from their creator God to the gods of the idols of the rest of the world. Eventually they were dragged away into Assyria and Babylon for around 70 years as punishment for their sins against the one true God. And yet we see God's mercy in restoring them to their own land, allowing them to rebuild their temple, and eventually the wall around the city of Jerusalem.

But God had yet a greater thing in mind for his children.

III. Jesus the Savior:

When the condition of the world was right God sent his son into the world. Now of course if you don't believe in a God then of course there would have been no reason to send someone to save the world. After all when we die that is it. We live and then we die to nothingness. That is certainly a philosophy that is very comforting. Well at least there is no behavior standard that we would have to concern ourselves with if that is the case.

But I believe in God and that rejection of that God brings on his wrath. In this system that was given through Moses could only partially take care of this wrath issue. Wouldn't it be great to permanently turn away God's wrath. Well again in order to do this God sent his son first to show and teach us how to live. He assembled a group of followers that would be given an awesome task to start building his Kingdom on earth.

The next thing that Jesus did was to endure the pain and humiliation of the Cross to become the final and perfect sacrifice for sin. Never before had a human lived a perfect life to be qualified to be a proper sacrifice. In fact it had to be God as his son to sacrifice himself to ransom his children from their sins. Under the Law of Moses the blood of innocent Bulls, Goats, Lambs, and Pigeons had been spilled century after century and still more was needed. Now with Jesus sacrifice that system could simply come to an end. Jesus was the most perfect innocent that could ever be had. Thus his blood washes us continually from our sins.

***7**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^b sin. (1 John 1:7)*

This is great comfort. We don't have to earn salvation nor do we have a good deeds goal that must be met based on how many sins that we have committed. Once we begin our walk with Jesus we do our very best to walk in the light because we love him and what he did for us, not to balance the scales of justice.

Besides I am like Peter when he and the other disciples were challenged by Jesus:

***66**From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. **67**"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. **68**Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to*

whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. [69](#)We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:66-69)

Conclusion:

Back to the original question, does Jesus make sense? If we are seeking a spiritual solution to our lives then indeed he does! Unfortunately most of the criticism comes from a political point of view. I for one do not put too much stock in the political process to solve problems. Certainly in the spiritual world only God’s word offers us all the answers that we could ever need.

Are you walking with Jesus today? He can and will save you from all sins. If you aren’t the waters of baptism are ready this morning. Do you have doubts? Are you discouraged? Do you need prayers of the church? If any one of these things applies to you then you should come forward while we stand and sing the song of invitation.