

# Came to Seek and to Save Those Perishing

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"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father who is in heaven. For the **Son of Man** came to save those perishing. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine, and go into the mountains, **seeking** the-one which has gone astray? And if be that he finds it, **truly** I say unto you, he rejoices more for that sheep, than for the ninety-nine which did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." (Matthew 18:10-14)

"And **Jesus** entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zaccheus, who was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he **sought to see Jesus**, who **He was**; and could not for the crowd, because he was short of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see **Him**; for **He** was to pass that way. And when **Jesus** came to the place, **He** looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, 'Zaccheus, make haste, and come down; for today I must stay at your house.' And he made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, '**He** had gone to be guest with a man who is a sinner.' And Zaccheus stood, and said unto the **Lord**; 'Behold, **Lord**, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.' And **Jesus** said unto him, 'This day salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the **Son of Man came to seek and to save those perishing** (and thus lost, and unable to find Eternal Life in God's Kingdom!)' " (Luke 19:1-10)

**Son of Man:** from the Greek words ***Hulos tou anthropou*** which mean: Son of Man; a Messianic title of Jesus, first used of Jesus prophetically as follows: "*I saw in the night visions, and, behold, someone like the **Son of Man (Jesus)** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the **Ancient of Days (God the Father)**, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given to Him dominion, and glory, and a Kingdom ...*" (Daniel 7:13-14)

**Came:** from the Greek word ***elthen*** a verb which means: came (in an active continuing sense). In Context: Jesus was sent by the Father to save those people who are perishing; as it says:

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the **Son of Man** be lifted up; so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have Eternal Life. For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes on Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than **Light**, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil **hates the Light**, nor comes to **the Light**, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he who does truth comes to **the Light**, so that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3:14-21)

**To Seek:** from the Greek word ***zetesai*** a verb which means: to-seek (in an active continuing sense); to search for, to desire, to strive after; such was the desire of Jesus: for those who would be saved. Such was the desire of Jesus when He frequently associated with sinners of all sorts: such as the hated tax collectors, and the self-righteous hypocrites. Such was the desire of Jesus when He "... began to preach, and to say, '**Repent; for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.**'" (Matthew 4:17) Such was the desire of Jesus when He "... went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Good-News of the Kingdom, ..." (Matthew 4:23)

**To Save:** from the Greek word **sosai** a verb which means: to-save (in an active continuing sense); to rescue, to deliver, to heal, to preserve. This was the primary goal of the Father and His Son Jesus, just as the angel said to Joseph and Mary:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was like this: When His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child by the **Holy Spirit**. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was mindful to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, you son of David, do not fear to take unto yourself Mary as your wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth **a Son**, and **you shall call His name Jesus**: for **He shall save His people from their sins**.' " (Matthew 1:18-21)

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**." (1 Timothy 1:15)

**Those:** from the Greek word **to** which means: that, or the, or those; in context: Jesus is speaking of those people, who are so sick with sinfulness, that they need to be continually sought out and saved from their sinfulness and separation from God; as He said, "For God so loved the world ... !"

**Perishing:** from the Greek word **apololos** a verb which means: perishing-fully, being-destroyed-fully, being-cut-off-entirely, being-utterly-actively-lost. (from **apollumi** which means: to destroy fully; implies permanent and absolute destruction. The contrast is that between life and death; between eternal damnation in hell, or eternal life in heaven; between eternal salvation, or being eternally separated from God; between being utterly lost within a sinful lifestyle, or being found and returned to the Father's joyful and righteous Kingdom.

Quoting from the Book of Isaiah, Jesus shared the fulfillment of the prophecy concerning His calling and anointing from His Father:

"The Spirit of the **Lord is upon Me (Jesus)**, because **He** has anointed **Me** to preach the Good News to the poor; **He** has sent **Me to heal the brokenhearted**, to **preach deliverance to the captives**, and recovering of sight to the blind, to **set at liberty** those who are bruised; to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Isaiah 61:1-2)

And so, Jesus Came to Seek and to Save Those Perishing:

"And as **Jesus** passed forth from there, **He** saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and **He** said unto him, 'Follow Me'. And he arose, and **followed Him**. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at a meal in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with **Him** and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto **His** disciples, 'Why does your Master eat with publicans and sinners?' But when Jesus heard that, **He said unto them**, 'Those who are whole do not need a physician, but those who are sick (do). But go you and learn what this means: '*I will have mercy, and not sacrifice*' (Hosea 6:6): for I have not come to call the righteous, **but sinners** to repentance." (Matthew 9:9-13)

"There were present at that season some who told Him (Jesus) of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, 'Do you Suppose that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you: 'No': but, **except you repent, you shall all likewise perish**. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them, do you think that they were sinners above all men who dwell in Jerusalem? I tell you: 'No'; but, **except you repent, you shall all likewise perish**.' " (Luke 13:1-9)

"Then drew **near unto Him** all the publicans and sinners for to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, 'This man receives sinners, and eats with them.' And He spoke this parable unto them, saying, 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after that one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, **rejoicing**. And when he comes home, he called together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, '**Rejoice with me**; for I have found my sheep which was lost.' I say unto you, that likewise **joy** shall be in heaven over **one sinner who repents**, more than over ninety-nine just persons, who do not need to repent. Or what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she loses one piece, does not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and her neighbors together, saying, '**Rejoice with me**; for I have found the piece which I had lost.' Likewise, I say unto you, there is **joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents**.'" (Luke 15:1-10)

The parable of the prodigal son, that Jesus shared, has the following lesson to learn:

"And the son said unto him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring forth the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry (rejoicing!); for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was perishing (and lost), and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, 'Your brother has come; and you father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' And he (the older brother) was angry, and would not go in; therefore, his father came out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, nor have I transgressed at any time your commandment; and yet you never gave me a goat-kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this your son had come, who has devoured your living with harlots, you have killed for him the fatted calf.' And he (the father) said unto him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was proper that we should make merry, and be glad (rejoicing): for this your brother was dead, and is alive again; he was perishing (and lost), and is found.'" (see Luke 15:21-32)

In conclusion: Jesus said, "**Come unto Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden (in sin), and **I will give you rest**. Take **My** yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For **My** yoke is easy, and **My** burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

### Jesus Came to Seek and to Save Those Who Are Perishing and Lost

Like a Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks to save every person who has gone astray !  
Like a Good Friend, Jesus laid down His life to redeem us to back the Father !  
Like an Advocate before the Father He continues to intercede for us !

There is rejoicing in Heaven over every sinner who repents !  
Like for the prodigal son, a great feast is prepared for us !

Thank You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for Your Great and wonderful Mercy !  
Thank You for the perfect rest that we have in You !

All Glory, and Honor, and Thanksgiving is Yours forever !!

AMEN !