

21T13a Why be a Christian? (Part 1)

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me at the PUNLA coffee table. So, get your coffee or tea and Get comfortable so we can talk.

Before we start. If anything I say today is useful to you, it proves God can even use a person like me. If what I say is folly, then that's all me. I'm human and I am flawed.

Let me ask you a question.

Why should you be a Christian?

This was a question we posed over the dinner table. We usually hear a lot about the Cost of being a Christian, But what about the cost if you are not Christian. Or you might hear the things you can't do if you become a Christian. Instead, why don't we talk about what we can do because we are Christian and things we get because we are followers of Jesus.

Remember a Christian is a follower of Christ. A servant of Jesus. But a non-believer does not understand this. Deep down inside, a nonbeliever wants to know why they should become a follower of this Jesus.

Too often pastors and Christians talk about the cost of being a Christian. Reality is everything has a cost. To you, to somebody or to something. There is a price for every choice we make. Being a Christian has a price, not being a Christian has a price.

I think we should talk about why we are Christians. What we can do because we are Christians. What is the cost if we don't follow Jesus.

What do you worry about? What keeps you up at night? Rich or poor there are many things that people worry about. Poor people envy the rich for what they don't have and are depressed about it. The rich always want more and envy the things money can't buy and are depressed about it.

Now can you remember when you were a child. Did you worry about any of those things. Whether you had or did not have, you trusted in someone to provide for you.

Now think about it. What if you could trust someone to take care of you now. Someone who wants the best for you. Would you follow that someone?

I contend that as humans we all yearn to follow someone. It's just how we are made. Whether from the living or the dead we look to someone for guidance and direction. When we were young it might be our parents or teacher or coach or some celebrity. As we grow older it might be a political leader or someone from history. You learn about them and try to emulate them or in other words you try to become more like them in your words, actions, attitudes.

So, Why this Jesus? Why be a Christian or Follower of Christ. My first response to this question is if not Jesus then who? Who is worthy of me emulating them. I contend we all emulate someone or some ones. I've heard people say they don't follow anyone and if that is you, then good for you. For myself, I need guidance, so yes I look for people to emulate. People I can work to be more like. And it's not just one person typically. When I learn about someone or if I'm being taught by someone, I try to emulate the wisdom and character traits from that person that I admire.

Well when choosing someone to follow, you should look if they have something, a trait, a character, an attitude, a style, etc. that we wish we had. I personally have a list of people I wish to emulate in some way. Some from the Bible, like David's heart, Daniel's faith, Joseph's perseverance, Paul's peace, Peter's boldness and of course my master Jesus. But I also have many people, I listen to and know that I try to become more like. This list includes people like Dallas Willard, Alistair Begg, my parents, my wife and so on. Each have something I want to develop or a trait I know I need to improve. They are worthy emulating.

So again, "Why Jesus?" First, you have value to God. He was willing to take on humanities flesh and live among us, so that we would have a way to live with Him. Now that's love.

But I think we can better understand "Why Jesus" by looking at the Character of Jesus and His promises. There are a lot of Promises of Jesus in the Bible. But, I want to show you just a few.

What are the top things people worry about. Money, Security, Health, Children, etc. Would you follow someone who can help you with these worries.

Matthew 11:28-30(NLT) ²⁸Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

We all have burdens and worries. Things that keep us up at night. Jesus is telling us He will give us rest from these burdens and worries. We just need to rely on Him. Jesus promises to teach us how to handle our burdens. He says His yoke is easy. Everyone has a yoke. But having someone to help you carry it and guide you removes worries from these activities. We just need to trust Jesus to lead us where we need to be. He will guide our paths if we trust Him. And lastly, the burden Jesus gives us in return is light and easy to manage.

Let me say it this way, Sleep like a baby. Did you know Jesus promised this. I can paraphrase it this way. Give your troubles to Jesus and trust Him with the outcome. Then sleep like a baby. Yes, following Jesus means you can rely on Him to take care for you so you don't need to worry. I did say He would give you everything you want.

But from my personal experience, my wants actually change as I follow Jesus, to be more and more like Jesus.

Jesus tells us, his followers, that we don't need to worry. Luke 12:22-31(NLT) ²²Then He said to His disciples, **“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. ²³Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? ²⁵And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁶If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? ²⁹“And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹**But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.****

I think our time is about done for today. So, far we have read how the Bible promises,

- If we give our worries and burdens to Jesus, we can sleep like a baby.
- Jesus will give us guidance.
- We can trust God to take care of us just like the Father He is

Next time we will explore a few more promises in the Bible, then I'll share some examples from my life. Hopefully answering the question, Why be a Christian?

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your promises in your word the Bible. Everyone needs a leader. Someone to emulate. I am so thankful to be led by you. You are my master. I trust in your promises and rely on you for everything. I know without you I can do nothing of worth. All my deeds are empty.

Use me Lord anyway you choose. I will follow. I am the clay you are the potter. Mold me so I can be used by you.

We pray in your name Jesus, Amen.

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