

# TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

## EPISODE 2 – BIRTH OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE (LUKE 2)

### UNWRAPPING EASTER SERIES

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- The Easter story is one part of God’s remarkable love story that began even before the creation of the world.
- In the last episode we learned from the story of Adam and Eve how sin destroyed the peace they shared with God. Their relationship was broken.
- The result of Adam and Eve’s sin was death, and it is the same for us. **Romans 6:23**; *“When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That’s because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.”*
- God gave Adam and Eve just one command to follow and they could not obey him. God then gave Moses the 10 commandments. From the first day Moses brought the stone tablets with the commandments down from Mt Sinai, until today, we still disobey God.
- Our sin would continue to separate us from God. We would never find peace with God, except that God had a plan to rescue us. His plan was sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth.
- The prophet Isaiah called Jesus “the Prince who brings Peace.” **Isaiah 9:6**; *“A child will be born to us. A Son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And He will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.”*



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- We find the story of Jesus' birth in the **Gospel of Luke, chapter 2**. Caesar Augustus made a law that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. So, Joseph and Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, had to travel to Bethlehem so they could be listed.
- They could not find a place to stay, so when Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth. She laid Jesus in a manger, which is a feeding box for the animals.
- It was night and shepherds were in the fields nearby taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified.
- *"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."*
- Then a large group of angels from heaven also appeared praising God. They said, *"May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"* After the angels left the shepherds went to find Jesus.
- You may wonder why the Christmas story is part of a Bible study about Easter. Christmas celebrates the birth of the promised Prince of Peace.
- The angel said, *"I bring you Good News,"* and it is good news. But do you think it was Good News for everyone? Was everyone happy about Jesus and the peace He was offering? Some accepted Him, but others would reject Him.
- There was something else Isaiah said about Jesus in **Isaiah 53:3**; *"People looked down on Him. They didn't accept Him... We looked down on Him. We didn't have any respect for Him."*
- This is because some people don't understand that they need Jesus. To accept Jesus and the peace He brings, we must first understand that we are sinful and need a Savior.

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- You may remember from the study on the Beatitudes where Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who are sad. They will be comforted.”* In that lesson we shared a parable Jesus told that is found **Luke 18:9-14**.
- He said that a Pharisee and a tax collector went up to the temple to pray. In Jesus’ time Jewish people did not tax collectors because they collected taxes for Rome and many of them stole from the Jews.
- The Pharisee prayed loudly about how wonderful he was. He said, *“God, I thank you that I am not like other people. I am not like robbers or those who do other evil things. I am not like those who commit adultery. I am not even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. And I give a tenth of all I get.”*
- But the tax collector stood away from the Pharisee and couldn’t even look up to heaven. He placed his hand on his heart and prayed, *“God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner.”*
- Jesus said it was the tax collector who went home accepted by God. The Pharisee didn’t believe he had committed any sins and didn’t confess any sins when he prayed. Jesus made it clear that the Pharisee was not accepted by God.
- But the tax collector was sad about his sins. We cannot find peace and restore our relationship with God without being sad about our sins.
- What did Jesus have to do to restore our peace with God? Remember, the price of sin is death. Jesus took our place and gave His life so we could have eternal life. He gave His life for us by dying on a cross.
- Jesus said in **Mark 10:45**; *“the Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, He came to serve others. He came to give His life as the price for setting many people free.”*
- The Jewish leaders hated Jesus, and Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested. But before He was arrested, He went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane to pray. He prayed for many things. He prayed for His disciples, and also for all of us.
- His prayer is recorded in **John 17**. Jesus prayed, *“I do not pray only for them. I pray also for everyone who will believe in me because of their message. Father, I pray they will be one, just as you are in me and I am in*

*you. I want them also to be in us. Then the world will believe that you have sent me.”*

- Jesus wants us to have the same kind of relationship with each other and with His Father that Jesus has with the Father. He wants us to have relationships of perfect peace. Jesus wants others to believe in Him because of the peace we have with God and each other.
- Jesus then allowed Himself to be arrested, where He was unfairly tried. They beat Him and then nailed Him to a cross until He was dead. Jesus' body was then taken down from the cross, wrapped in cloth with spices and laid in a tomb.
- The thought of Jesus being crucified for our sins is sad, and we do need to be sad about our sins. But the good news is that Jesus' death was not final. He didn't stay dead. Jesus rose from the dead!

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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### **1. What is one thing that both Isaiah and the angels said God would bring to the world?**

- The answer is Jesus! Jesus was born to bring peace to the world. Isaiah called him the “Prince Who Brings Peace.” The angels said, “may peace be given to those He is pleased with on earth!” The peace Jesus brings is healing for our relationship with God.

### **2. Why is it that some people reject Jesus?**

- Some people don't understand that they need Jesus. To accept Jesus and the peace He brings, we must first understand that we are sinful and need a Savior.

### **3. Who did Jesus say was accepted by God, the Pharisee or the tax collector, and why?**

- Jesus said it was the tax collector who went home accepted by God. The Pharisee didn't believe he had committed any sins and didn't confess any sins when he prayed. Jesus made it clear that the Pharisee was not accepted by God.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

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### 4. How did Jesus restore our peace with God?

- Jesus took our place and gave His life so we could have eternal life. He gave His life for us by dying on a cross. We only need to put our trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

## PERSONAL QUESTIONS

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1. Take a few moments to think about some of the things you do that you know you should not do.

2. Do you have a relationship with God? Have you put your trust in Jesus? Do you know how to restore your relationship with God?

- God already did all the work through His Son Jesus to reconcile us to Himself. We only need to trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

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