



**truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice”** (John 18:37). Either Jesus was who He said He was, or He wasn’t, and there is no third alternative as some contend. The Man testified that *all* the things He said were and are true, the

world must either accept or reject that, for there is no middle ground. There is one more thing one should consider before deciding what he or she will do with Jesus, and that is the answer to the question “Why did Jesus do these things?” He answers, “**Greater LOVE has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends**” (John 15:13 emphasis mine). Knowing that Jesus was willing to die for us while we were still enemies of God, knowing that His entire life was a sacrifice for our benefit, and knowing that it was all motivated by His *love* for us, what choice will you make?



Faithful Sayings Issue 12.38 September 19, 2010

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## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

12.38

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

September 19  
2010



## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Steve Dixon  
Pat Goguen  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Jason Garcia

## Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?

By Jason Garcia

There are many conflicting views within the religious world today as to why Jesus came to earth. Some believe that He was a great moral teacher and nothing more, others doubt whether the man ever existed at all. However, there is substantial evidence apart from the Bible that Jesus of Nazareth was a real person who lived in 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine, who taught multitudes of people, and who even in His own time was the center of much controversy. What does the Bible say of Jesus, and how did Jesus describe Himself and His purpose while on Earth?

First, if we ask the question “Why did Jesus come to Earth?” we imply that He originated elsewhere, and that He was perhaps sent by a higher authority. Jesus Himself declares that He came to reveal God the Father; consider how He responds to Philip

upon being told “Lord, show us the Father...”: **“He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say ‘show us the Father’?”** (John 14:9 NASB; cf. 14:7; 8:19; 12:45; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3). Furthermore, Jesus went on to explain that He came to reveal the *words* of the Father: **“The WORDS that I say to you I do**



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**not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in me does the works”** (John 14:10, emphasis mine; cf. 5:19; 14:24; 17:8). Therefore, if Jesus came to reveal the Father, and give God’s message to the world, then He came to reveal the *will* of God the Father for all mankind. In fact, Jesus said this explicitly: **“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me”** (John 6:38; cf. 4:24; 5:30; Matt. 26:29). We can be assured that Jesus came to teach us the will of God, but what does that mean for us, and what was God’s will for Jesus?

If we are agreed on the origin and authority of Jesus, then let’s move on to our next question mentioned above. Jesus makes it plain that the Father sent Him to *serve*: **“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”** (Matt. 20:28; cf. 2 Cor. 8:9). The apostle Paul wrote concerning Jesus that **“although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but HE EMPTIED Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant...”** (Phil. 2:7, emphasis mine). The life of Jesus was one of utter selflessness and we don’t have to look far before we see His tremendous example in Scripture. Consider John chapter thirteen where we find the One who was “in very

nature, God” kneeling before His own creation to wash *their* feet, normally a task reserved for the lowliest slaves, and as such shocks the disciples and cries out for an explanation: **“Never shall you wash my feet!”** says Peter, but Jesus assures them of His example (cf. John 13:12-17). Traditional Rabbis would have seen this service as too demeaning for their position, but the humility of Jesus is not governed by such boundaries. The passages in Matthew twenty and Philippians two also give us insight into the ultimate purpose in Jesus’ life of service, namely that He would “give His life a ransom for many.” Jesus testified of this several times: **“For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him”** (John 3:17; cf. 1 John 4:14; Luke 19:10). Through this act He would also destroy the power of the devil: **“Therefore since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil”** (Heb. 2:14; cf. 1 Cor. 15:54-57; 1 John 3:8). Jesus had full knowledge of His purpose and the things that would occur dur-

ing His life on earth, before He ever walked among men (cf. John 17:5), but He was still *willing* to come and serve man even to the point of death, so that through His death we might be reconciled to God (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17-19; Phil. 2:7-8).

Now we have reached a crucial turning point, the point at which all men must make a choice concerning the things Jesus said and did. Jesus came to speak truth: **“Therefore Pilate said to Him, ‘So You are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the**