



JESUS, NOT THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

John 3:16-17

Sketch [It's all in the Family \(pdf\)](#)

Slide: Jesus is the reason for the season

You've probably seen something like this before. It comes from the front of a Christmas card. Jesus is the reason for the season. In our sketch we looked at the disgruntled minister and found that he was fed up of all the things that go with Christmas – including church! But it's so easy to lose the meaning of Christmas in all the festivities isn't it?

I hope we are all going to be enjoying our presents and gorging ourselves on Christmas lunch today – perhaps with friends and family. We are actually going to have lunch as a family today – just the four of us as it's not often that we have been home together in Christmas Day. But many people find that the constant round of relatives and parties eventually get on top of them. More marriages get strained or even break up at Christmas than at any time of the year. More families get stressed and even fall out as people try to amuse relatives that they only see once a year. More people are arrested for drunkenness, more people are prosecuted for drink driving, overdraft and credit card bills mount... Happy Christmas!

But that's not what Christmas is about is it. So often the central character of Christmas is pushed into the background – Jesus. And we say “we must do something about that Jesus is the reason for the season”.

Well I'm going to shock you. Jesus is NOT the reason for the season. “What? Did I hear the new Pastor correctly. Jesus is not the reason for the season? What strange things does this man teach?”

Let me try to explain.

We've looked at the way that people don't ever think about Jesus at Christmas. But why did Jesus come? What was the reason? Because why He came is the reason for the season!

So you had lots of presents – yes? Good! Do you know why we give one another presents at Christmas? Because God gave us one – Jesus.

Now, were our presents deserved? Do you think you earned it? No? Somebody gave you that present because they love you.

At the first Christmas God gave us Jesus because He loved us and through Jesus, God wanted to offer us a really cool gift – a way to know Him, not just now, but for the rest of our lives and for ever and ever. Wow, that's pretty good isn't it? Why did he give us that as a gift?

Because we can't get there ourselves. Because God is a God of love, it means He shows us grace – He wants to be good to us without us having done anything to deserve it?

Grace – God's riches at Christ's expense.

All have sinned and come short of God's glory.

None of us are good enough to know God of ourselves because we've all done things that displease Him – lying, cheating, stealing, cussing people off whatever. And you know that's true if you don't have a relationship with Him.

But listen to this: John 3:16

God sent His Son because He loved us. He wants to know you. He wants to change your life – to give you a hope that you've never had. Power to deal with all the situations of life. And to know Him forever.

And all you have to do with God's gift is that same as you do with any gift – just receive it and say “thanks”.

Slide: Jesus isn't the reason for the season
Slide: it's US.

Jesus did not come to condemn the world but that the world through Him would be saved. There never would have been any need for a baby, a Saviour, a cross if we didn't need rescuing.

Christmas is here to remind us that each of us needs rescuing: to know Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. To remind us that we are sinners and can't know God. But it's also here to remind us of the trouble that God went to to become our Saviour .

Challenge - make this Christmas a little different.

Does this make sense to you? Or have you missed the point. I'd like to finish with this little piece which makes the challenge God gives you at Christmas clear. Do you understand – or have you missed it?

Poem – They missed Him

*They were looking for a lion,
He came as a Lamb, and they missed Him.*

*They were looking for a warrior,
He came as a Peacemaker, and they missed Him.*

*They were looking for a king,
He came as a Servant, and they missed Him.*

*They were looking for liberation from Rome,
He submitted to the Roman stake, and they missed Him.*

*They were looking for a fit to their mold,
He was the mold maker, and they missed Him.*

*What are you looking for? Lion? Warrior? King? Liberator?
What are you looking for?*

*They were looking for their temporal needs to be met,
He came to meet their eternal need, and they missed Him.*

*He came as a Lamb to be sacrificed for your sin.
Will you miss Him?*

*He came to make peace between God and man.
Will you miss Him?*

*He came to model servanthood for all mankind.
Will you miss Him?*

*He came that we might have true liberty.
Will you miss Him?*

*He came to give you eternal life.
Will you miss Him?*

*When we submit to the Lamb, we will meet the Lion.
Join with the Peacemaker, and we will meet the Warrior.
Work with the Servant, and we will meet the King.
Walk with the Submitted, and we will meet the Liberator.
Concern ourselves with the eternal, and we will have the temporal.*

*If we realise He is our Saviour, we must accept him
If He already is our Saviour - He deserves our life, our all.*

Final slide – Let us thank God for His priceless gift! Are you going to? Or are you going to miss it.

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