

St Martins C3 – December 10, 2023

Jesus is For Everyone

Sermon Notes:

In this message, we look at several passages that tell us who Jesus came to save.

For example, here is what the angels say:

but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to ___ people.

Luke 2:10 (NLT)

What are the missing words?

bring great joy to special people.

bring great joy to Jewish people.

bring great joy to holy people.

It’s not any of those things.

Instead, the Angel says God’s good news is for _____ people.

Let’s read a second scripture. This is a man named Simeon who met Jesus at the temple. He was waiting for the Lord’s messiah and he says this:

³⁰ *I have seen your salvation,*

³¹ *which you have prepared for _____.*

³² *He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
and he is the glory of your people Israel!”*

³³ *Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about
him.*

Luke 2:30-33 (NLT)

Then there is what Luke mentions about John the Baptist coming. He says that through John’s message.

And _____ will see God’s salvation.

Luke 3:6 (NIVUK)

One more verse for us to think about is found in the book of Acts on the birthday of the church. The apostle Peter is speaking and he is probably quite glad that it is not just the holy and special people who receive God and His presence.

*The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far
off – for _____ whom the Lord our God will call.’*

Acts 2:39 (NIVUK)

Do you see the difference between the big red man and the man whose words are written in red? One of them gives gifts to the nice kids and not to the naughty kids. The other one is Jesus who brings His Holy Spirit, brings His presence and gives forgiveness to all people.

Usually:

- It is the strong that survives.
- The smart that succeeds.
- The spectacular that we celebrate.

- Shepherds aren't supposed to find a Saviour.
- It's not that sinner that is saved.

In our world losers don't easily find acceptance.

In contrast, Jesus invites in all people. The good, the bad. People from Israel, and those from outside Israel. People of all nations, tribes and tongues.

All we need to do is say, "Jesus, can I be part of your group?" And we are in. Then an amazing thing happens.

- We become special people. Part of God's family.
- We become part of God's chosen people. United not by the nation of our birth but by our trust in Jesus.
- We become holy – God sees us as though we are as pure and good as His own son. We are transformed to live life his way. To do what He has asked as emulate His holiness.

Jesus is for everyone. Jesus is for you.

Questions to Ponder:

What is your favourite part about Christmas?

What stood out to you from today's message?

What does this message tell you about God?

What does this message tell you about humans?

How would you complete the phrase: "Jesus is ..."

What are the strangest Christmas songs that we sing?

How difficult do you find it to grasp the grace of God?

How can you embed the grace of God as a truth in your life?

What difference will that make?

If God accepts everyone does that mean we can live for ourselves and get away with it? Why or why not?