

03. Jesus' Mission



‘I came that you may have life,
and have it abundantly.’

(John 10:10).

‘I came to bring fire to the earth,
and how I wish it were already kindled!’

(Luke 12:49)

Jesus' agenda (Luke 4:16-21)

‘When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written [Isaiah 62:1-2]:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.

“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”



John 2:1-5

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.”

And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?

Has not my hour now come.”

His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

John 2:6-8

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water."

And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward."

So they took it.

John 2:9-11

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from
(though the servants who had drawn the water knew),
the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

“Everyone serves the good wine first, and then
the inferior wine after the guests have had plenty to drink.
But you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee,
and revealed his glory;

and his disciples believed in him.

Mark 1:40 Liberating the Outsider

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you want to, you can make me clean."

Leviticus 13:45-46

The person who has the scaly skin disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be disheveled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, "Unclean, unclean." He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

Mark 1:41-45

Liberating the Outsider and
welcoming him into the community

Deeply moved, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “Of course I want to. Be made clean!”

Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” (see Leviticus 14)

But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in places where nobody dwelt.

People, however, came to him from every quarter.

Mark 2:1-5 Liberating from paralysis of sin

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them.

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 2:13-17 Eating with sinners. Solidarity Vs Separation

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them.

As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me."

And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many **tax collectors and sinners** were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples (first mention) – for there were many who followed him.

When the scribes of the Pharisees ("separated ones") saw that he was eating with **sinners and tax collectors**, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with **tax collectors and sinners?**"

When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Luke 6:35-36

Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.

Your reward will be great,

and you will be children of the Most High;

for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Jesus' disciples are to follow his example, by imitating God in loving everyone, for the God he calls 'Father' is not only God of Israel, but God of the whole world, and God's holiness radiates out to every land and every people. So must our love if we are to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

Luke 7:22-23

‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
the poor have good news brought to them.
And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

Romans 8:31-39

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ...

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that

neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gospels

In their attempt to communicate the significance of Jesus to their Jewish brothers and sisters, the Christian community portrays Jesus as the perfect fulfilment of the faith of Israel.

They do so in the dramatic story-telling tradition of the Older Testament.

In Jesus we see that

1. External chaos cannot separate us from God's love (Mark 4:35-41)
2. Internal chaos cannot separate us from God's love (Mark 5:1-20)
3. Sickness and Death cannot separate us from God's love (Mark 5:21-43)

In Jesus, God the Creator and Redeemer
is offering Salvation

Mark 6:30-34

The apostles (see 6:7 'sent' apostellô) gather around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

He says to them, "Come away ('with him' see 3:14) to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat (compare 3:20).

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd (compare Numbers 27:17); and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:35-38

When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.”

But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.”

They say to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?”

And he says to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.”

When they had found out, they say, “Five, and two fish.”

Mark 6:39-44

Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties (see Exodus 18:21).

Mark 14:22

Taking the five loaves and the two fish,

he looked up to heaven, and blessed

and broke the loaves,

and gave them to his disciples

Taking a loaf of bread,

and blessing,

he broke it,

gave it to them, and said,

“Take; this is my body.”

to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Mark 8:34-37

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,
“If you want to become my follower,
deny yourself, and take up your cross and follow me.

If you want to save your life (psyche) you will lose it.
If you lose your life because of me, and because of the gospel,
you will save it.

For what will it profit you to gain the whole world
and forfeit your life?

Indeed, what can you give in return for your life?

- 1- A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.
- 2- Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.
- 3- So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.
- 3+ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.
- 2+ Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
- 1+ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise".



Jesus' care for the outsider Luke 15:1-32

'All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.

And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable.

The younger son

1. leaves his father and home
2. loses everything
3. sin takes him to the bottom

change of mind

3. Father comes out to his son

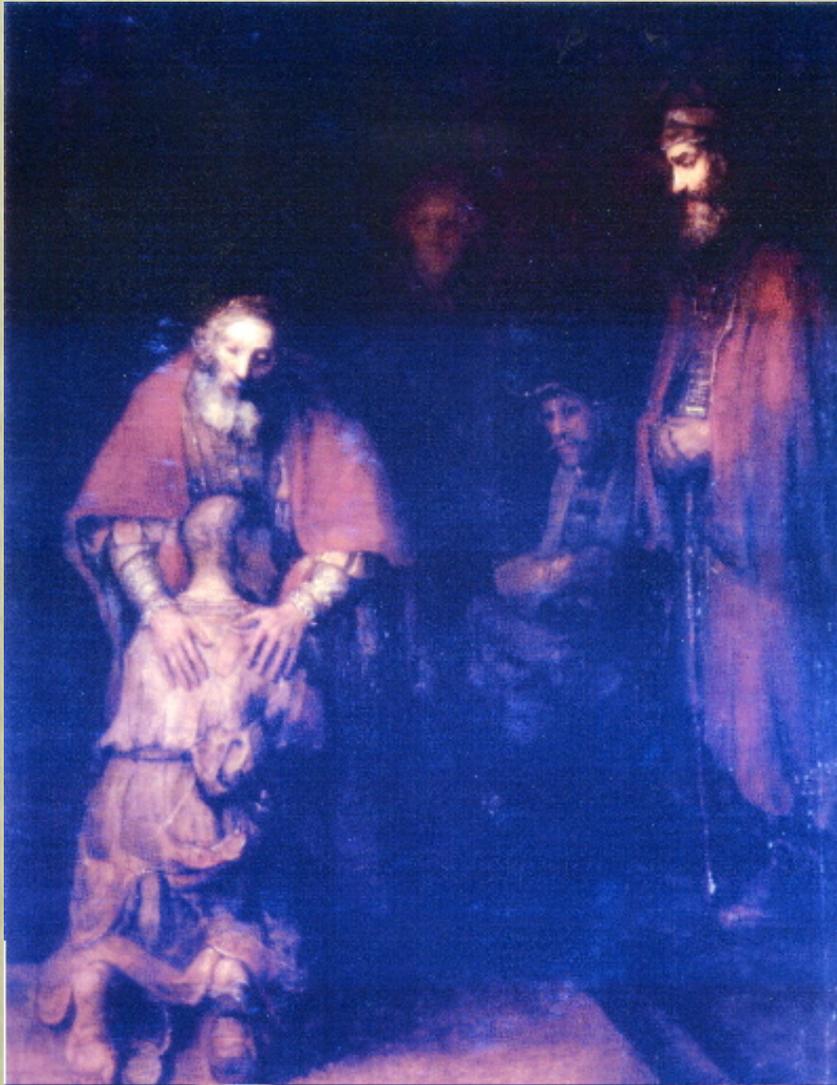
2. receives everything
1. 'They began to celebrate'

The elder son

1. Comes in from the fields
2. hears of celebration and is angry
3. **Father comes out to his son**

stubborn refusal

3. Father tells him of his love
2. father explains the celebration
1. ??????



Rembrandt

‘He set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate’ (Luke 15:20-24).

Mark 10:46-52

They come to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they call the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”

So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.”

Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well (‘saved you’).”

Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Mark 12:41-45

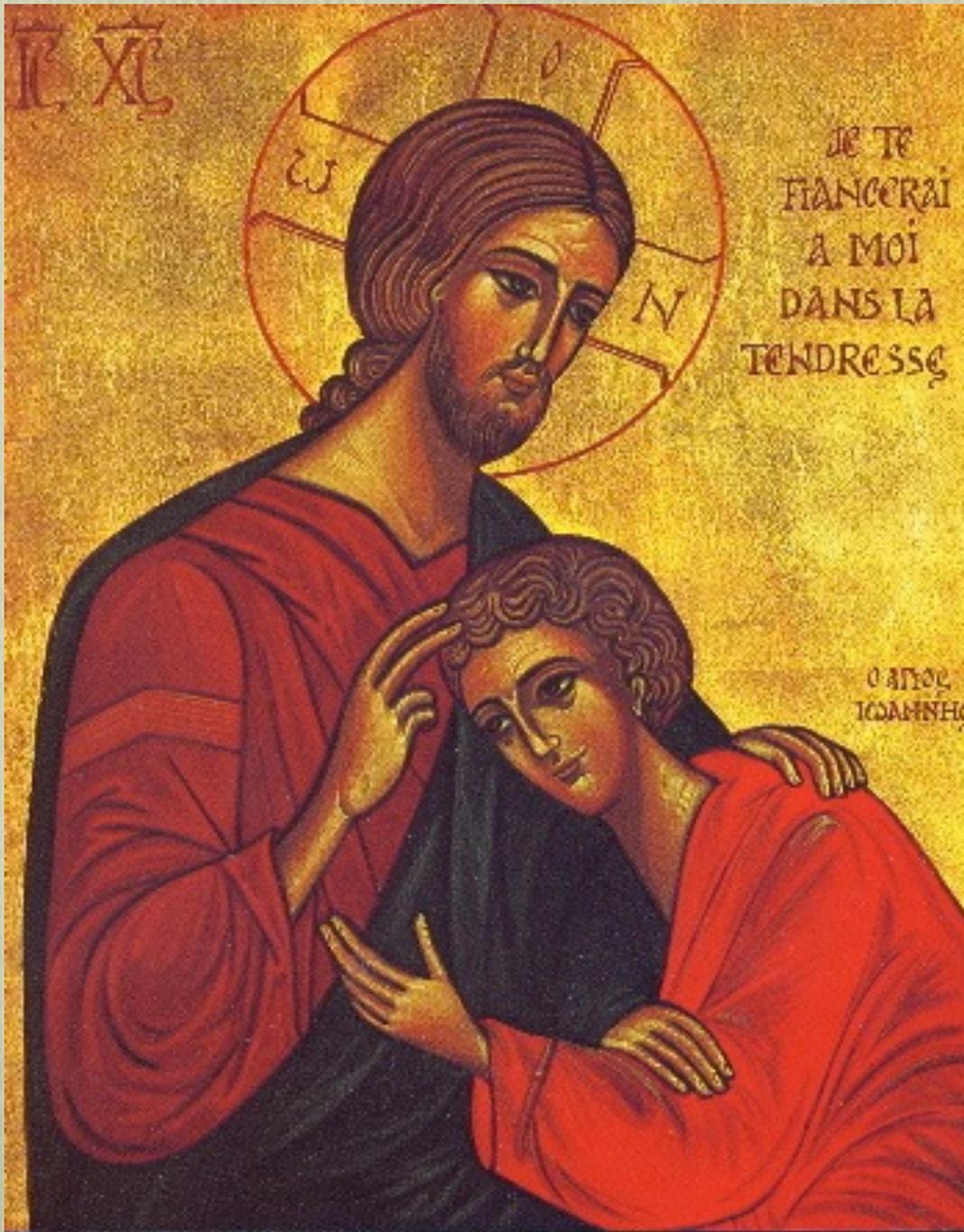
Jesus sat down opposite the treasury,
and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.

Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, (quadrans)
the equivalent of two cent pieces.

Then he called his disciples and said to them,
“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had,
all she had to live on.”



‘I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete’(John 15:11).



Jesus, Bread of Life