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## Beliefs - How far would Jesus go to reach us?

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At Gods Purpose Ministries, our beliefs are pretty simple. But instead of just listing them for you, we decided to let you discover them for yourselves as you enjoy some short, very inspiring, and informative messages about the Nature of God, the Trinity, the love of Jesus, man, sin, salvation, prayer, and God's greatest purpose for your life. Listen, read, and enjoy.

# How Far Would Jesus Go to Reach Us?"

There are so many stories in Scripture that demonstrate God's love for us. The most obvious being the fact that God loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die for us, so that if we believe in Him, we would not perish, but we can have everlasting Life - **John 3:16**. And the fact that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us - **John 1:14**. He veiled himself with a cloak of humanity over the glory of His divinity, so He could come and rescue us from destruction. And God demonstrated His great love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us - **Romans 5:8**.



The Crucifixion Experience

We also see the incredible love of God (our Father) demonstrated in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Remember when the loving father is patiently waiting for his son to return and as he comes over the hill, he jumps to his feet and runs out to meet him. This father who I am sure was a distinguished elder in the community, didn't care that his culture considered it undignified for an elder to run. He didn't care that it was unacceptable and unbecoming a man of his position. He just ran out to meet his son and he embraced him, and in doing so showed the love that God has for us.

Then there is the Parable of the Good Shepard, who left the 99 and went out and he searched and searched until he found the one lost sheep. And when he did he celebrated. Now that may not seem like a big deal to you unless you've ever been that one lost sheep.

The list goes on and on in fact, the entire Bible from cover to cover is one big love story of God's love for us. His patience, forgiveness and sacrifice, His discipline, wrath and mercy, His grace, kindness, and future plans for us are all in there (Bible).

Most likely if you are reading this, I have not said anything that you didn't already know. But what I would like to do now is to look at a day in the life of Jesus while He was here on earth and see how far He was willing to go and what He was willing to go through just to reach ONE person who desperately needed Him. I WONDER IF WE WOULD BE WILLING TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE? I WONDER IF WE WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THE SAME?

## **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY Mark 4:35-Mark 5:1-20**

"And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awakened him, and said unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had [his] dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not even with chains: because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any [man] tame him. And always, night and day, he was

in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, "Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them." And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand) and were choked in the sea.

And they that fed the swine fled, and told [it] in the city and in in the the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus and see him that was possessed with the devil and had the legion sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. And they that saw [it] told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and [also] concerning the swine. And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. And when he was to come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but said unto him, Go home to thy friends and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all [men] did marvel.

Jesus in His flesh was a Jew. He was considered by many to be a Rabbi (teacher). But Jesus did not come to impress people, and He was not concerned with keeping up appearances and holding to tradition. He was here to reach the lost. He came to give us life. He came to do the will of the Father. He came to serve and He came to save. Look back at the story and think about all the things that Jesus did wrong in the eyes of Jewish tradition. Think about all the rules He broke. All the people who would look down on Him and judge Him for where He went and what He did. You can't get any more Jewishly unclean...

HE WENT TO AN UNCLEAN PEOPLE - GENTILES  
HE WENT TO AN UNCLEAN PLACE - A GRAVEYARD  
HE WENT TO CAST OUT UNCLEAN SPIRITS - DEMONS  
AND THERE WERE EVEN UNCLEAN ANIMALS - PIGS  
AND IF THAT WERE NOT ENOUGH, HE HAD TO CROSS THROUGH A DEMONIC STORM  
STORM JUST TO GET THERE. ALL THAT FOR ONE MAN.

SO YOU TELL ME, WHAT MATTERED MORE TO JESUS, RELIGIOUS TRADITION OR REACHING THE LOST? COMFORT OR CAPTIVES?

AND HOW FAR WOULD JESUS GO TO REACH THE LOST?

HOW FAR DID HE GO TO REACH YOU?

HOW FAR WILL YOU GO TO REACH SOMEONE ELSE FOR JESUS?

In closing, let's look at the last two verses of the passage we just read. *Jesus said, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how much He's had mercy on you. And the man went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and marveled."*

I am often amazed at what God can do with even a little bit of obedience from His people. God help us to go and do likewise.

## Cited Scriptures

- **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- **John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- **Romans 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Luke 15:11-32** "The Parable of the Prodigal Son"
- **Matthew 18:12-14** "The Parable of the Lost Sheep"