



Good Friday April 03, 2015
Jesus, Friend of sinners
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Our sinful state

Man (used in a gender neutral sense) is an amazing creation of God - with a brilliant mind, imagination, creativity, skill and capacity to do things. With advancements in science and technology, having examined the smallest microorganisms to exploring far out into the vast expanse of the universe - there is so much that man has accomplished.

And yet, man is most pitiable of all creation. Sinful, corrupt, morally degraded and wicked in nature.

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;
Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

When we look around, read or watch the News, this is very obvious.

Sinful Man Before A Holy God

Most of us understand that God is absolutely Perfect, Holy, Just, Infinite.

God declares "I am Holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

The angelic beings around His throne "do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8).

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

God dwells in unapproachable light, (1 Timothy 6:16).

Sin isolates us from a holy God.

Isaiah 59:1,2

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.



2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

Man at his best, without the Saviour, stands deficient before a holy God.

God loves sinners!

Most of us would thus assume that an infinitely holy and righteous God would have nothing to do with sinful man. At best, we'd imagine that a Holy God would pound man endlessly with His wrath, and let us know how miserable we are.

But the Bible presents us with an amazingly different picture of God. God became a Man, in the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus reached out to sinners. Jesus walked as a friend of sinners.

Consider the following records in the New Testament:

Mark 2:15-17

15 Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.

16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"

17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

The righteous, in this case, are not those who have no sin, but those who have not recognized their sinfulness.

You need to repent to enter into God's Kingdom. But you can never repent until you let go of your own righteousness and recognize your own sinfulness.

Luke 7:36-50

36 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat.



37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,

38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

John 8:1-11

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.



9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

To a woman who was shamed, accused, condemned Jesus brought release. When He said "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more", all her guilt, shame, condemnation were erased. She walked away free!

He could forgive sin, because, as the Friend of sinners, He gave His life to bring forgiveness and freedom.

Isaiah 53:4-6,12

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

In the garden He travailed.

He did what He did because of love.

He did it so that we could be forgiven and brought back to God.

Romans 5:8-10

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

John 3:16,17

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.



Jesus Christ, Friend of Sinners, loves you.

He came to bring us back to Himself.
He came to take us back into His family.
He came to be the Father to wayward sons and daughters.
He came to be the Shepherd to sheep that have gone astray.
He came to be the Light to people overwhelmed in darkness.
He came to be the Deliverer for us who are enslaved and oppressed.
He came to be the Healer for the oppressed emotionally and physically.

Some of the most sinful, became the most useful, when they encountered the Friend of sinners.

Peter who when he encountered Jesus cried out, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Luke 5:8), was later used to preach the inaugural sermon for the Church.

Mary Magdalene, a woman out of whom Jesus cast out seven demons, was the first one to whom Jesus appeared after His resurrection and who was sent to inform the disciples of Jesus (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9).

Paul, previously called Saul, was a man who was totally against Jesus Christ. He had Christians put in prison, and some killed.

Paul testified:

1 Timothy 1:13-15

13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

This same man was used to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, received much of the revelation of Scriptures and wrote about two-thirds of the New Testament.

Luke 15:1-2

1 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.

2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

Luke 15:4-7 The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.



Luke 15:8-10 The Lost Coin

Luke 15:10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:11-32 The Lost Son

God awaits for each one of us to come to Him.

Heaven and Hell

Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

John 14:1-6

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

4 And where I go you know, and the way you know."

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

What does this have to do with Good Friday?

Christ died on the Cross to make forgiveness possible.

What About You?

Man at his best, without the Saviour, stands deficient before a holy God.

Any man, even at his worst, with the Saviour, stands forgiven, righteous and accepted before God, because His blood cleanses us from all sin.



Are you with or without, the Saviour?

Do you feel you need a saviour?
Are your sins too great to bear.
There is a Man who is Friend of sinners,
He is Jesus, He does care.

You say you have no great sin,
You have no need for the Saviour.
Remember, the smallest wrong we have done,
Before a Holy God, finds no favor.

Heaven is real, so is hell,
There's more than just the temporal.
We've got to see beyond today,
Life is short, eternity is eternal.

On the Cross He bore our sin,
God, dying for you and me.
He cleared the debt, He paid the price,
Believing, we are now set free.

He arose, He lives,
He is the risen Christ.
Friend of sinners, Saviour,
In Him You too can trust.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>