

# WHY ARE WE HERE

A question asked by one of my eight-year-old catechist students caused me to investigate over time: 'Why are we here?'. She asked me:

**“What was the most important thing that Jesus said?”**

What a question, and I can tell you it threw me. I responded by asking the whole class if they had any ideas, and I was given such things as:

- The Lord's Prayer.
- The Sermon on the Mount.
- The Beatitudes.
- The Parables.

I gave them the only answer I could at that time. I told them that everything that Jesus said was very important, and he never wasted time preaching silly things. At that time, I couldn't take the matter any further; yet I was intrigued and wondered if there was an answer?

I repeatedly, over some time, asked myself, what was the most important thing that Jesus said? The same answer came to me in different ways. It all came down to what I believed was the mission of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which he said in various ways was:

## **TO SAVE SINNERS.**

What I found in the Bible made me believe that this is correct. Some of what I discovered is as follows, but there are many more to be found in the Bible. We know this from what Jesus himself said and others, examples being such as the Apostle Paul in a letter to Timothy:

*“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst”* **1 Timothy 1:15.**

and when Zacchaeus expressed faith in Jesus and experienced a change in heart, Christ declared:

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to **save the lost.**”*

**Luke 19:10**

and again, Jesus himself saying

*“I have not come to save the virtuous, but sinners to repentance.”*

**Luke 6 32**

Many other examples in the Bible say the same thing but in different ways, and they all come down to that three-word declaration mentioned above. I asked myself what this means and why it is important for us to understand. If I'm right that this was the mission of Jesus Christ, then the first thing we can logically assume is that it is the mission of the church he created: the Catholic Church.

I found support for this when I remembered a pertinent sentence written by Father Patrick Henry Reardon, an Antiochian Orthodox priest, in his article written when trying to explain what St. Irenaeus had said in a document called *Against All Heresies*, c. 180 A.D. in Lyons, France. Father Reardon's statement is a truly great one. It states:

"The whole meaning of the church is to carry on the work of Christ, which was to save men and women from the frustration and misery of sin."

I was back doing my research in earnest, but before I go any further, something needs clarification. It's an eternity, so I'll give a brief explanation of it.

ETERNITY – People tend not to consider the immensity of eternity and limit their thinking to simple phrases such as 'It's a long time, 'everlasting' or 'It's got no end'. To get a true idea, consider the following.:

*THE TRILLIONS OF YEARS  
TILL THE END OF TIME  
IS LITERALLY NOTHING  
WHEN COMPARED WITH  
ETERNITY."*

Never underestimate what eternity represents. Time, as we know it, is nothing; it always has an end. Eternity has no end.

The Catholic Church teaches us that at our conception, we are given an eternal soul, that word eternal again, and free will, which we can use to obey or not God's challenges we call the Ten Commandments. If we use our free will to disobey them gravely and deliberately, then we have sinned. If we do not repent and get God's forgiveness, then our eternal soul will go **to hell for all eternity**.

If we use our free will to obey the commandments, then when we die, our immortal souls will live with God in heaven for all eternity. Is it this promise by God that caused Him to send His Son to earth to **SAVE SINNERS?**

We can never know God's reasoning, but we can try to understand things based on our knowledge.

Obedying or not God's commandments is not so easy for many people. To use free-will, people generally use DESIRE as an aid. This is not a problem until it is used in excess, such as when a person desires, greed, envy, power, riches, causing theft, avarice, slander, indecency, malice, envy and other things at the cost of pain and suffering. When this happens, those who use desire in this way disobey God's commandments and sin gravely.

On top of desire, there is that evil spirit Satan, whose sole purpose is to make sure that people sin gravely using all kinds of sinful temptations, and he's unceasing in his efforts.

Using our free will is not as easy for human beings as it may seem. The problems concerned with it are great. We can never know what God's intentions are unless he tells us, but all the above may be why God sent his Son to help us and why his mission here on earth was:  
**TO SAVE SINNERS**

To gain this great objective, the Catholic Church uses **STRATEGIES** it created, and some by Jesus Christ, such as:

- Praying.
- The Mass.
- The Sacraments.
- Missionaries
- And others.

Use these strategies, and you'll be surprised how easy it is to defy Satan and obey God's commandments, thus gaining eternal happiness in heaven when we die, which I believe is **why we're here**.