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Starting Life Over Again



Part 45 (020317AM)

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This morning we are continuing our journey through each scene in the Four Gospels where Jesus explains the Gospel of Salvation. There is no more vital study that any of us could undertake than this one. I call it the Master's Message, a study of salvation through the words, and actions of Jesus, as recorded by the Four Gospel writers.

Why are we spending these weeks examining Christ's Message of salvation?

- The greatest message of all is the Good News of Salvation.
- The greatest messenger of all times was God the Son, Jesus who came to save His people from their sin.
- The greatest and probably the last of the Four Gospels was John. So as you open to the Gospel by John this morning.

This morning we come to the third scene starting in [John 1:33](#). Here is the truth we must understand as we go out each day representing Jesus Christ our Lord -

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS Christ DECLARES TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE ON THIS PLANET:

THROUGH JESUS

THEY HAVE THE SUPERNATURAL OPPORTUNITY TO START LIFE OVER AGAIN

BRAND NEW AND THE RIGHT WAY!

John has 26 powerful scenes where our Lord Jesus Christ explains the truth about salvation, and identifies those who are saved. We have come to the third, as John captures Jesus describing believers as those who:

possess Jesus Christ; understand salvation is only by substitution; have been overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit; hang on to Christ alone; get to start life over again - only this time brand new and in the right way; has no wrath of God to ever fear; drinks water of life; is convinced that Christ is their only hope;

First look at God's Word. Our text this morning is [John 1:33](#).

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Modern history records one tragic life lived off the pathway of truth, never knowing how wonderful a second chance at life could be. Listen to the tragedy of a life that ended without the Gospel of Jesus! [1]

- *Who really cared? His was a routine admission to busy Bellevue Hospital. A charity case, one among hundreds. A bum from the Bowery with a slashed throat. The Bowery...last stop before the morgue. Synonym of filth, loneliness, cheap booze, drugs, and disease. The derelict's name was misspelled on the hospital form, but then what good is a name when the guy's a bum. The age was also incorrect. He was 38, not 39. The details of what had happened in the predawn of that chilly winter's morning were fuzzy. Would it have made any difference if she and those who treated him had*

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- Part: 8 Is Your Head Oiled?
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- Part: 6 I AM THE DOOR: Entering Life Through Jesus
- Part: 5 Have You Given Your Life to Jesus?
- Part: 4 Jesus: I AM the Bread of Life
- Part: 3 Jesus: I am the LIGHT in the Wildersness
- Part: 2 Jesus: I AM the Light to follow
- Part: 1 Jesus: I AM the Light to Trust

known who he was? Probably so.

- His recent past was the antithesis of his earlier years. The Bowery became the dead-end street of an incredible life. But all that was over. A 25 cent-a-night flop house had rooms you hear about, but never want to see...full of stinking humanity too miserable to describe. He was one among many. Like all the rest, he now lived only to drink. His health was gone and he was starving. On that icy January morning before the sun had crept over New York's skyline, a shell of a man who looked twice his age staggered to the wash basin and fell. The basin toppled, shattered.
- He was found lying in a heap, naked and bleeding from a deep gash in his throat. His forehead was badly bruised and he was semiconscious. A doctor was called, no one special--remember, this was the Bowery. He used black sewing thread somebody found to suture the wound. That would do. All the while the bum begged for a drink. A buddy shared the bottom of a rum bottle to calm his nerves.
- He was dumped in a paddy wagon and dropped off at Bellevue Hospital, where he would languish, unable to eat for three days...and die. Still unknown.
- A friend seeking him was directed to the local morgue. There, among dozens of other colorless, nameless corpses with tags on their toes, he was identified. When they scraped together his belongings, they found a ragged, dirty coat with 38 cents in one pocket and a scrap of paper in the other. All his earthly goods. Enough coins for another night in the Bowery and five words, "Dear friends and gentle hearts." Almost like the words of a song, some thought. But who cared?
- Why [2] in the world would a forgotten drunk carry around a line of lyrics? Well, maybe he still believed he had it in him. Maybe that derelict with the body of a bum still had the heart of a genius. For once upon a time, long before his tragic death at age 38, he had written the songs that literally made the whole world sing, like:

"Camp town Races"

"Oh! Susanna!"

"Beautiful Dreamer"

"Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair"

"My Old Kentucky Home"

... And two hundred more that have become deeply rooted in our rich American heritage. Thanks to Stephen Foster, who nobody knew that day. Who never believed in the Good News of Jesus, and for whom nobody cared.

- Deep within many a forgotten life is a scrap of hope, a lonely melody trying hard to return. Some are in prison. Some in hospitals. Some in nursing homes. And some silently slip into church on Sunday morning, terribly confused and afraid. Do you care? Enough to share the truth that can set them free? That was Christ's ministry. Is it yours? Some might look like bums from the Bowery, but they may have a song dying in their hearts because nobody knows and nobody cares.

Stephen Foster died without Jesus. He was deceived by a false hope, namely alcohol.

He looked every where but at the One who declared they were truth and life.

Retrace our path with me, the path of Christ's salvation message painted across the fabric of these 26 Intimate Moments with the Savior, when Jesus explained the Gospel. Have you noted what we found last time?

1.	<p>Believers possess Christ; Believers become God's Children; BELIEVERS HAVE A Salvation THAT is only by a Supernatural event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BelieverS possess Christ and become God's children John 1:12 Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— • John 1:13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
2.	<p>BELIEVERS UNDERSTAND THAT salvation is only by substitution John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! "Behold the lamb of God". There before [3] John stood the One whom all the sacrifices of Old Testament times had foreshadowed. It is exceedingly striking to observe the progressive order followed by God in the teaching of Scripture concerning "the lamb". The Gospel as explained by Paul in I Cor 15:3-4 explains this so clearly Christ died for sin</p>
3.	<p>A believer is overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit John 1:33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." God's Holy Spirit comes and invades every part of our being, standing by to transform, deliver, heal, and protect. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the washing away of our sins, the supernatural implantation of a new heart, and the beginning of God's work in our lives. It is instantaneous and supernatural. So in a sense, baptism does save us, baptism does wash away all sin, but the baptism that does that is only performed once and only performed by God the Holy Spirit!</p>
4.	<p>A BELIEVER GETS salvation only by hanging on to Christ alone John 2:11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. Salvation is a person, and He is our substitute, and we cling to him!</p>
5.	<p>A believer getS to start life over again (brand new and the right way!); a believer LOOKS AT Christ AS THEIR ONLY HOPE; a believer lives the truth; a believer loves the light Now mark these with me in your Bibles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A believer get to start life over again (brand new and the right way!) That is in John 3:3, 5,7 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born a gain.'

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A believer LOOKS AT Christ AS THEIR ONLY HOPE John 3:15-16, 18, 20-21 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 DO AS MOSES SERPENT VERSE! 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. • A believer lives the truth and a believer loves the light John 3:21 But whoever <u>lives by the truth</u> , <u>comes into the light</u> , so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." Remember again Acts 26:18 we are light seekers and lovers. I John 1 we walk in the light.
6.	<p>A believer has God's wrath pulled off of their life; a believer accepts the Son John 3:36 Whoever <u>believes in the Son</u> has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for <u>God's wrath remains on him</u>." God's wrath against sin is as unavoidable apart from Christ's sacrifice; we are without Jesus, like a target painted by a laser with a laser guided bomb headed its way, or a heat seeking missile locked on a jets engine, or a radar honing missile streaking toward an unsuspecting transmitter; or like swimming near blood when killer sharks lurk nearby. All are fatal, one is eternally fatal!</p>
7.	<p>A believer drinks Christ's water of life; a believer has a supernatural source of living water; drinkers are worshipers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A believer drinks Christ's water of life John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." • A believer has a supernatural source of living water John 4:14 but <u>whoever drinks the water I give him</u> will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him <u>will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life</u>." • Drinkers are worshipers John 4:23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and <u>his worshipers</u> must worship in spirit and in truth." Fountain of youth

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[1] Swindoll, ?

[2] Swindoll, Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life.

[3] Pink, Arthur, W., Exposition of the Gospel of John Volume 1. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1945, p. 65.

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