



One Page Sermon

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August 1, 2021

Jesus my Savior

One of my favorite TV shows is “The Office.” The show told the story of a group of about a dozen people working in an office for an office supply company. One of the characters, Andy, spent much of his time at the office talking about his college days. On the final episode of the show, we find out that Andy has left the office and gotten a job as a recruiter at his much-beloved college. During a series of closing monologues, Andy ruminates on the fact that while he working in the office, he was always thinking about his college buddies; and now that he’s working at his college, he’s always thinking about his buddies from the office. Then he says, “I wish there was a way to know you were in the good old days before you actually left them.”

It is a poignant reminder to savor life in the moment. Too many of us spend our time reminiscing about the good old days or thinking about the future. The ordinary moments of life are seldom thought of as “the good old days.” At the same time, millions of people feel as if they are going through the motions. They are caught up in anxieties of daily living or crippled by existential dread.

Parents are too busy to stop and delight in their children because they feel like little more than underpaid chauffeurs. Employees drag themselves into work every day, punch a clock or shuffle some papers in order to feel important and wonder if anyone would have really missed them. Retired couples barely speak, watch some TV, go to bed early and wonder who this stranger is that they have been living with for forty years. Widowers meet some friends for coffee who all grumble about the state of the world, read the newspaper, grumble about the state of the world, and listen to the radio hosts complain about the state of the world.

Good people, people of faith, people who have achieved moderate success in life, people who have found some comfort, are depressed, hopeless, and mourning the loss of a sense of purpose. People like this are seldom who we think of when we think of people who Jesus needs to save.

Most of the time, when we think of Jesus as savior, we are thinking of one thing—Jesus saves us from sin and hell and saves us for eternal life in heaven. For many Christians, this is



the sum total of their faith. This is the endgame. This is the reason they have said the “Believers’ Prayer,” asked Jesus into their heart, and call him their personal savior. Jesus gets us into heaven. End of story.

Salvation in Jesus is more than simply avoiding punishment for sin. The salvation Jesus provides is about more than getting a reward when we die. The salvation Jesus offers is a salvation from sickness to compassion. It is salvation from scarcity to generosity. It is salvation from punishment to joy, judgment to grace, failure and apathy to mission and purpose. Jesus saves us from fear of vulnerability and frees us to love radically and unconditionally.

Andy wished he could have known he was living in the good old days. Jesus came so that we might have life, and have it abundantly. He came to reveal to us that the Kingdom of God is at hand—all we need to do is notice it.

Look around you and see that these are the good old days. The people in your life, the friends you have, even the struggles and anxieties you are overcoming; these are a chance to live fully. Feel fully. This is the moment God has provided for you. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Jesus did not just to die. He came to set us free. He came to show us love, compassion, and generosity. We are saved from despair every time we choose love. Jesus is our savior—right now in this life and in this moment, and every moment to come.