

The Life of Christ A-Z

Nature Neutralized (Matthew 8:1-4)

The LORD, the Leper and the Key Dynamics of Saving Faith

ANGELS ANNOUNCE (The Pregnancy)

Luke 1:26-38/Matthew 1:18-25

BIRTH in BETHLEHEM (ala Micah 5:2)

Luke 2:1-7

CARPENTRY CAREER (in Nazareth)

Matthew 2:23/Mark 6:3

DOVE DESCENDS (The Baptism)

Matthew 3:1-17/Luke 3:21-23

ENEMY ENTICES (The Temptation)

Matthew 4:1-11/Luke 4:1-13

FIRST FOLLOWERS ("Japan")

John 1:35-51

GREAT GUESTS (1st Miracle: Water to Wine)

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HARSH HOUSECLEANING (of the Temple)

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INCREDIBLE INTERVIEW (w/Nicodemus)

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JIVE at JACOB'S WELL (w/Samaritan Woman)

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KIN KICKOUT (of Nazareth)

Luke 4:16-30

LOCATION LATERALED (to Capernaum)

Matthew 4:13-16

MARVELLOUS MESSAGE (Sermon on

Matthew 5:1-7:29 the Mount)

NATURE NEUTRALIZED ("Sign" Miracles)

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OPPOSITION OFFERED (No More "Signs")

Matthew 12:14-45/Mark 3:22-30

PARABLES PROPHECY (InterAdvent Period)

Matthew 13:1-52

QUIZICAL QUESTIONS (Who Am I?)

Matthew 16:13-20

REALITY REVEALED (The Transfiguration)

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STONING STOPPED (Jesus Claims Deity)

John 10:22-42

TOMB TRAUMATIZED (Raising of Lazarus)

John 11:1-53

UNDERSTANDABLE UPSET (of t/Temple)

Matthew 21:12-17/Mark 11:2-18

VISION OF VICTORY (Olivet Discourse)

Matthew 24:1-25:46

WASHING and WISDOM (Upper Room

John 13:1-17:26

Discourse)

eXPIATORY eXECUTION (The Atonement)

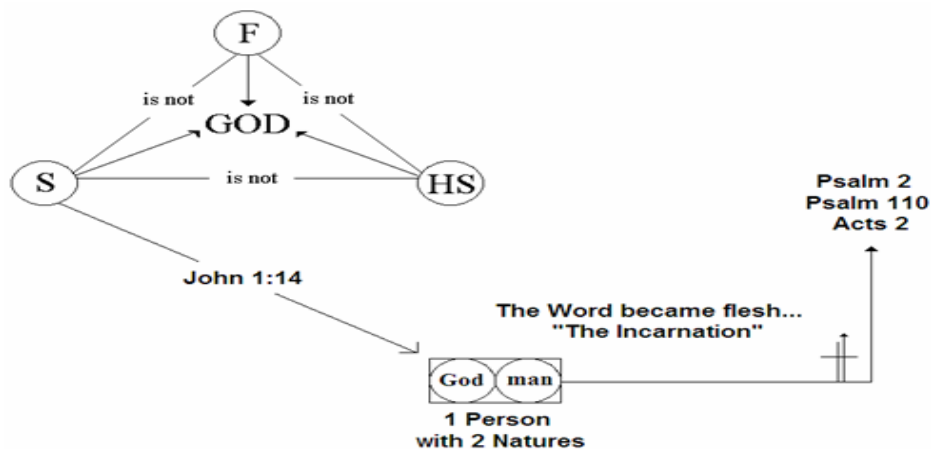
Matthew 27:27-66/John 19:17-42

YES! YEAH! (The Resurrection)

Matthew 28:1-15/John 20:1-21:25

ZAPPED from ZION (The Ascension)

Luke 24:50-53/Acts 1:6-11



In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.....the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:1 and 1:14

Matthew 8:1-4 The LORD and the Leper

Reveals the Key Dynamics of Saving Faith

The Setting v1

The GGM-immediately after the Sermon on the Mount/large crowds

An Amazing Appeal by an Audacious Anti-Hero v2

One humble and hurting man expresses ART (Active Receptive Trust) in Jesus

Leprosy in OT Israel: not the ailment called leprosy today-it was a component of intense Divine Discipline with a spiritual cause. This man had been living a life of enthusiastic deliberate prolonged unrepentant serious sin who as a result had received this spiritual discipline from God to isolate him from normative social contact (and for other people's protection). His physical status was an outward expression of his spiritual status. With that in mind, I am convinced he approached Jesus primarily seeking spiritual salvation (from his sin) not just physical salvation (from his physical symptoms).

Easton's Bible Dictionary says this about leprosy: The Hebrew word is tsara'ath which means "a smiting" because the disease was a direct providential infliction. In the OT lepers were required to live outside the camp or city. This disease was an awful temporal punishment from God. Symptoms included specks on the eyelids and on the palms slowly spreading over the body, crusting the affected parts with white scales and causing sores and swellings. From the skin the disease would eat inward to the bones. In Christ's day a leper could not live in a walled town though he might on the outskirts of an open village. He was required to have his outer garment torn as a sign of deep despair, to go bareheaded and to cover his beard with his mantle. He had to warn passers-by to keep away from him, by calling out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' Under the OT Law for the people of Israel it was an outward/visible sign of deep inner spiritual corruption. Our Lord cured lepers on several occasions although only two lepers were healed in the OT. The divine power manifested in doing this illustrates the gracious dealings of Jesus toward people in curing the leprosy of the soul.

The leper's words to Jesus in this verse (and our Lord's immediate positive response) is an excellent example of what I call ART = **Active Receptive Trust** - "If You are willing, You can make me clean" IOWs: the man was saying-to Jesus I've got a problem/my serious sin resulting in my physical condition, I can't fix my problem by anything I can do, but You can and I want You to..." // "As many as received Him to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." John 1:12

Jesus Immediately and Graciously Responds to the Leper v3

Our Lord immediately says: I am willing! Be cleansed! (spiritual and physical salvation). Contrast this statement about our Lord's willingness to save this outcast who humbly sought and trusted in Him alone....to save to Jesus' willingness to save the population of Jerusalem which was met not with ART (Active Receptive Trust) in Jesus but rather with ADR (Active Deliberate Rejection) of Jesus in Matthew 23:37.

Jesus Gives the Ex-Leper a Command After the Miracle v4

- 1: Obeyed OT statutes...and would lead to the ex-leper being able to fully rejoin society
- 2: Validated the Divine Person of Jesus to the Religious Leaders in Jerusalem

Take This To Heart and Into Your World

As We Have Seen Earlier at Jacob's Well (Letter "J" in the Life of Christ A-Z)

We See Here (Letter "N") Namely: **No Person is "So Bad"**

They Cannot Be Saved by God's Grace through Faith in Christ Alone

With the Other Side of the Coin: No Person is "So Good"

They Cannot Be Saved by God's Grace through Faith in Christ Alone

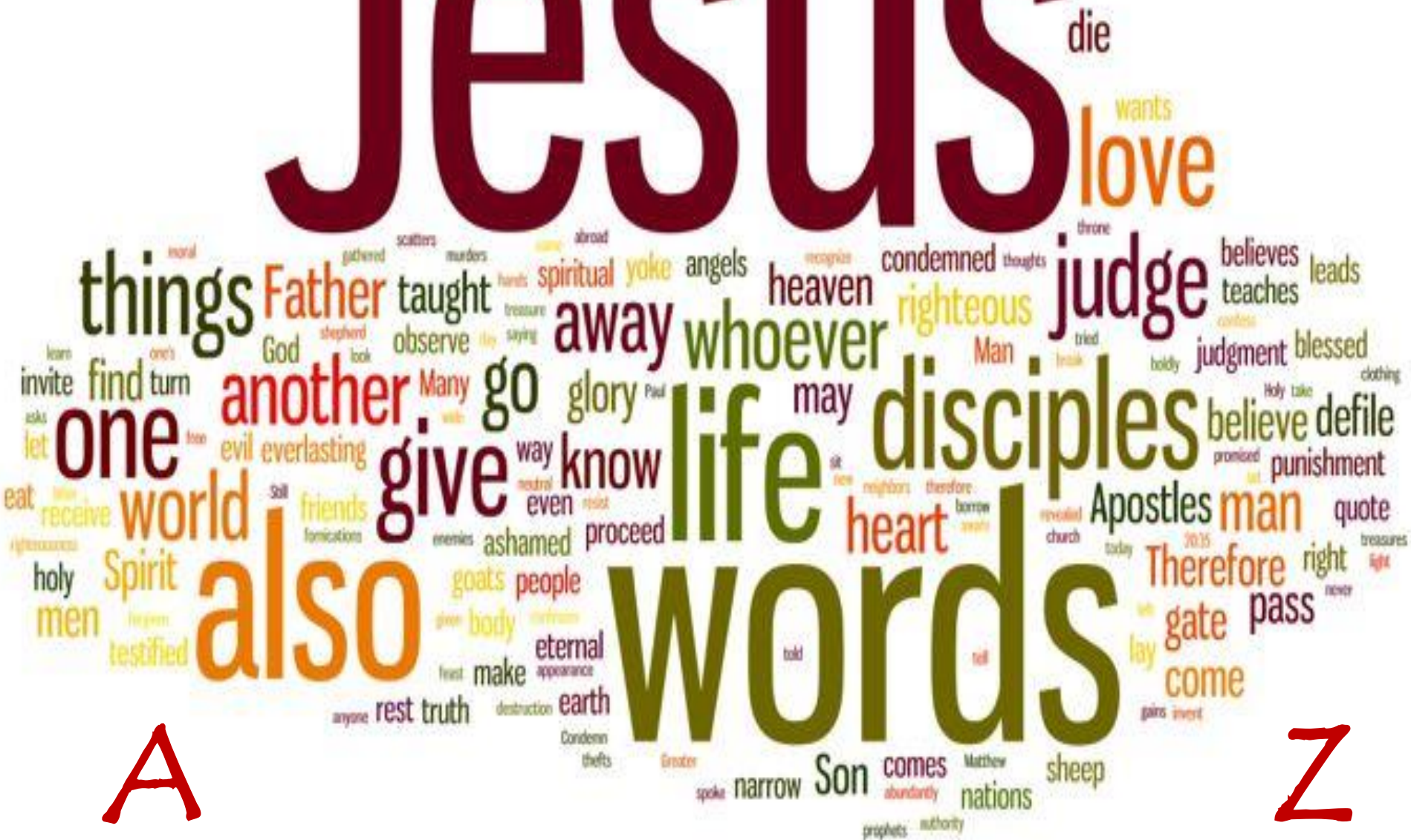
Remember 1: Many of our non-Christian family/friends assume Christianity is a salvation by good works (DIY/Let's Make a Deal) system. IOWs: good religious people go to Heaven and bad unreligious people go to Hell. Therefore, they think we are convinced we will go to Heaven because we "better" than them/because we do good religious things like attending church services. We must wisely help them realize we do not believe we are saved because we are "better" than others or because of any good thing in ourselves but only because of the saving virtues of Jesus Christ accessed through faith (ART) which is a rational act but which is not a meritorious work/good deed.

Remember 2: Some of our non-Christian family/friends believing that Christianity teaches salvation by righteous/religious living, have concluded they are "too bad" to ever gain enough merit to earn salvation. Of course the reality is like the leper in Matthew 8:1-4 they are not too bad to be saved...because salvation not something we achieve, it is something we must receive through ART in Christ which by definition involves humbly acknowledging not just their sin/guilt but also their inability to save themselves by good works including religious activities (which Hebrews 6 calls "dead works"). We must wisely help them to see that salvation comes by the grace mechanism summed in the statement: "nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling!"

Matthew 8:1-4

Nature
Neutralized

w
Jesus





Four Mildly Amusing
Statements Designed
To Mildly Stimulate
Our Capacity for
Abstract Thought



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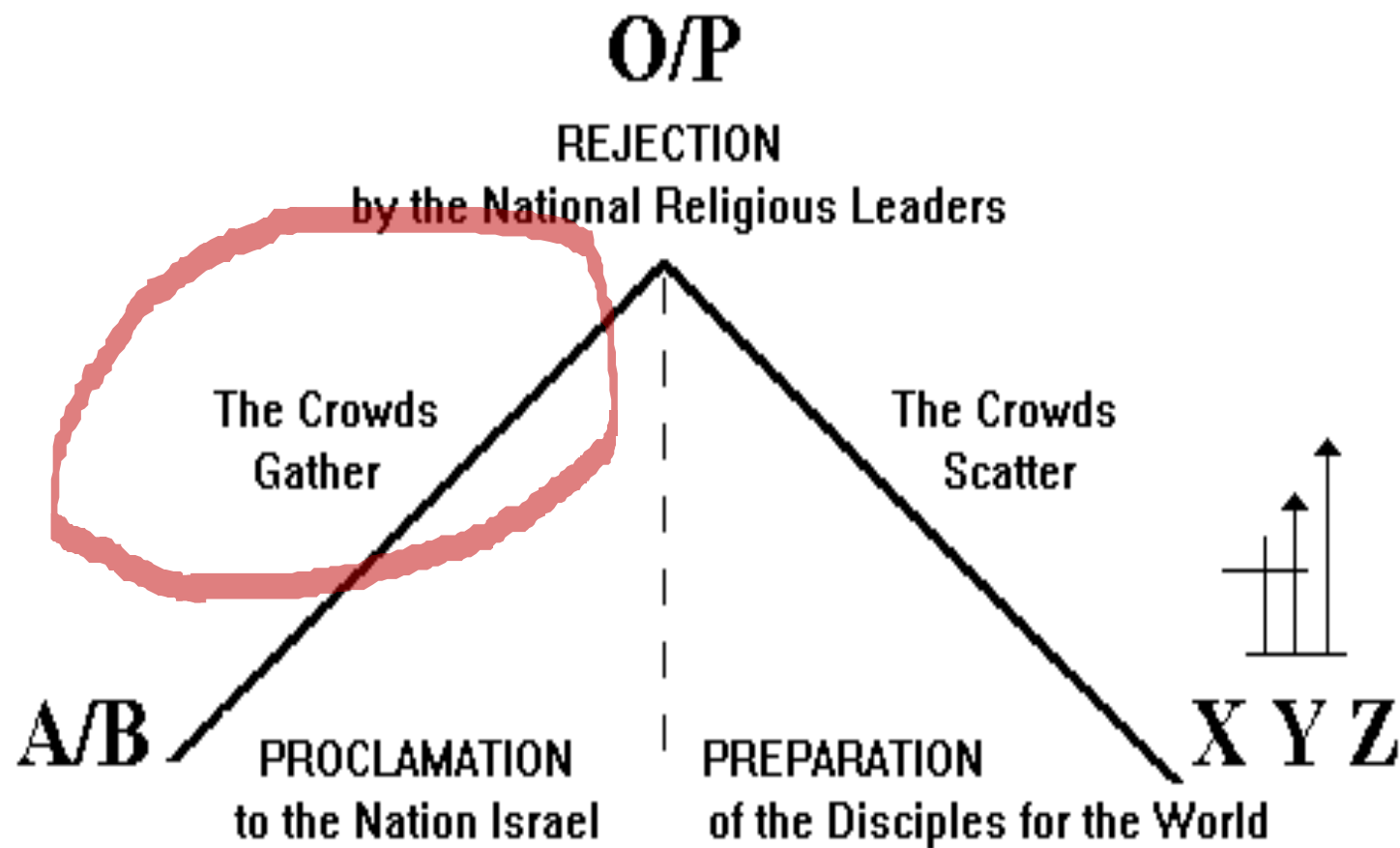
The LORD and the Leper

The Setting v1

An Amazing Appeal by Audacious Anti-Hero v2

Jesus Immed/Graciously Responds to the Leper v3

Jesus Gives the Ex-L a Command after the Miracle v4



THE MESSAGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(1) Evangelism: COME TO ME: Believe on the Christ and His Cross!

(2) Discipleship: COME AFTER ME: Deny Self, Take Up Your Cross and Follow the Christ!

The LORD and the Leper

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The Bible

A SYNTHETIC OVERVIEW



ONE MAJOR PREMISE:

All Humans are Sinners/Die...

ONE MAJOR PROMISE:

...the Savior is Coming!

ONE MAJOR PREMISE:

Jesus of Nazareth is the Savior/Alive...

ONE MAJOR PROMISE:

...the Savior is Coming Back!

Exo 19-24/Dt 4:13

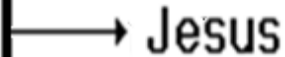
Mosaic Covenant
Moral, Civil, Ceremonial



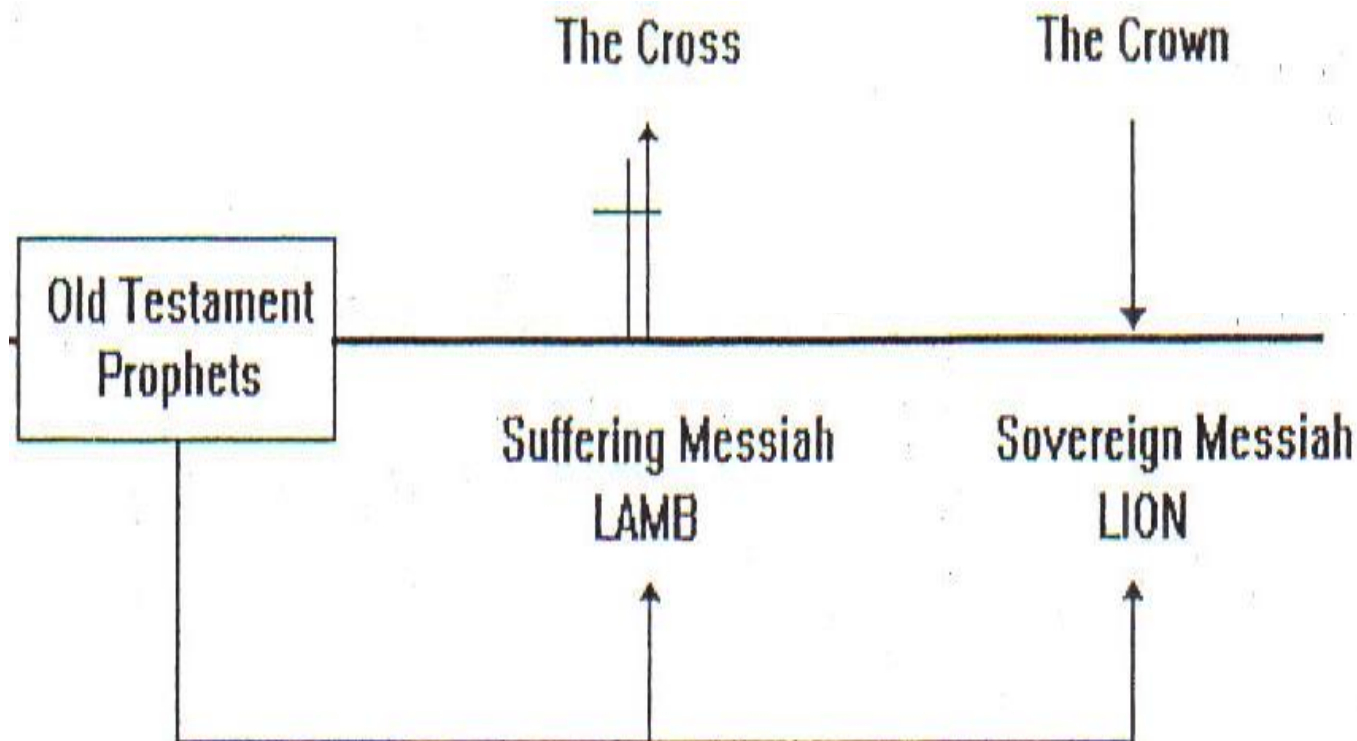
New Covenant
Christ is the End of the Law

Gen 12/15

Abrahamic Covenant
Land, Seed, Blessing



Jesus



Who: Jesus of Nazareth

What: He will be slaughtered for sinners

When: 1st Century AD

Where: Arrive in Bethlehem

Who: This same Jesus

What: He will slaughter sinners

When: Last Days

Where: Arrive on Mount of Olives

Who?

Gen 3:15
Gen 3:15
Gen 9:25-27
Gen 12:1-3
Gen 49: 10
2S 7:12-13
Isa 7:14

Human Being
Male
Semite
Abraham-Isaac-Jacob
Tribe of Judah
Family of David
Son of a Virgin

Where?

Specific Birthplace

Micah 5:2

Jesus of
Nazareth

When?

Specific TimeFrame

Dan 9:25-26

What?

He Will be Killed
and Later Est the Kingdom
He Will be Crucified

Dan 9:26

Psa 22:1-18

Why?

His Death Will be a
Substitutionary Atonement

Isa 53:4-11

Luke 18:9-14

Our BEST Isn't Good Enough for Salvation

The Point v9

The Parable v10-13

The Principle v14

// v 10-27

Act 2
607267

Salvation: God's Way

(HINT: We are the Savees...)

Salvation from Sin

Nobody is So Bad...

...They Can't HAVE Salvation

Romans 6:23a

Luke 18:9-14

The Tax Collector

2 Well

The Spirit Convicts of Sin, +R and Judgment

Salvation From Self +R

Nobody is So Good...

...They Don't NEED Salvation

Romans 3:20

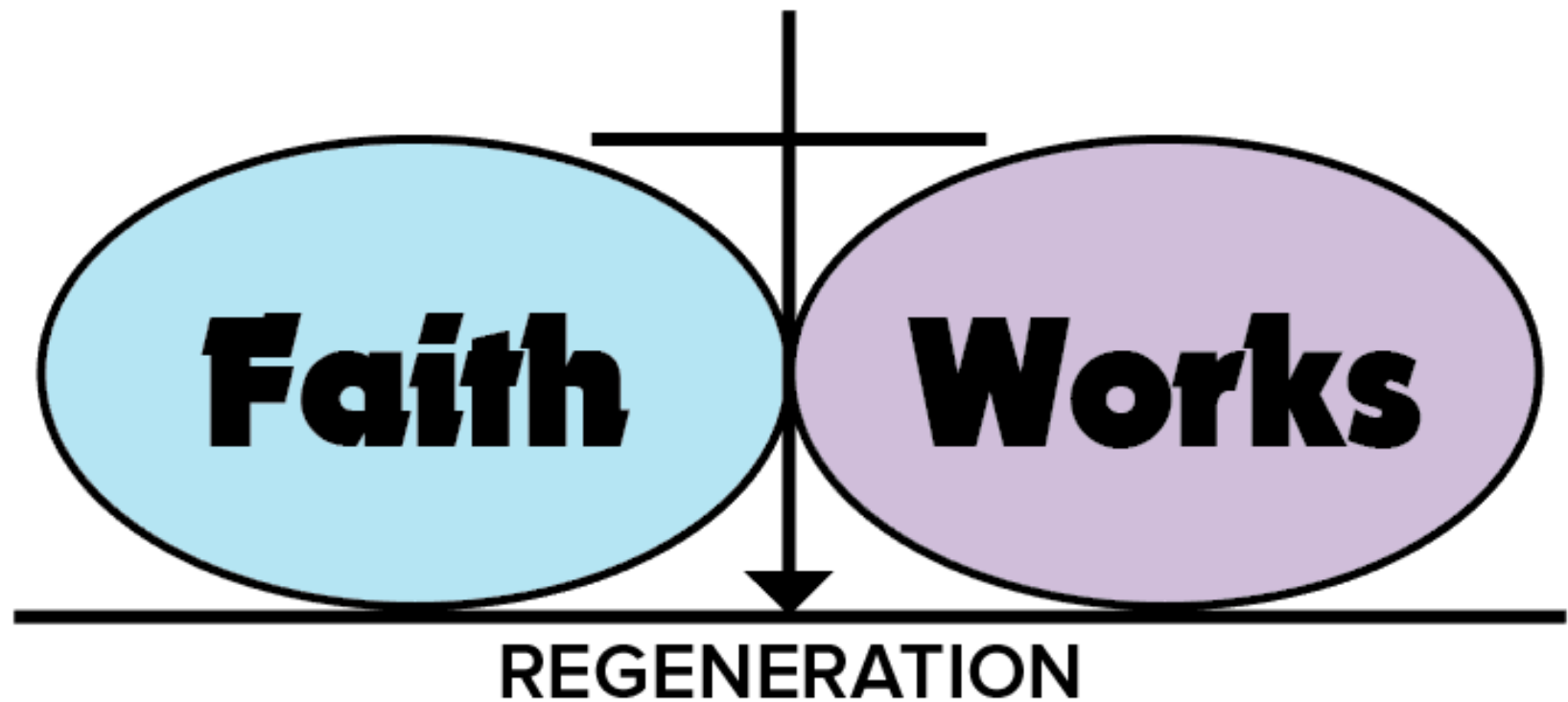
Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee

Nicodemus

Jn 4
Ph 13
Jas 1
Mt 16

ATONEMENT



Root Cause

Ephesians 2:8-9

*Not by Works
Come to the Light*

→ Fruit Effect

Ephesians 2:10

*But for Works
Let your Light Shine*

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No Person is So Bad

They Cannot Be Saved by God's Grace

Remember 1:

Many Non-Christians Assume Christianity
Teaches Salvation by Works (DIY)

Remember 2:

Some Non-Christians are Convinced
They are "Too Bad" to Be Saved