

His earthly father was a carpenter, a humble hewer of wood with whom He lived and laboured. He conformed to our human ways of life, custom, language and living that He might understand and love us better and communicate with us on the lowly level of our own limited human understanding!—He learned to *love* mankind. He saw their suffering and had great compassion on them, longing to not only heal their sick and broken bodies, but also to save their immortal spirits.

When the time came and He began His life's work, He went about everywhere doing good.—Helping people, loving children, healing heartaches, strengthening tired bodies, saving all who believed in Him. He not only preached His message, but He *lived* it amongst us. He not only ministered to their spiritual needs, but He also spent a great deal of time ministering to their physical and material needs, miraculously healing them when they were sick, feeding them when they were hungry, and sharing His life and His love.

His religion was so simple that He said you must become as a little child to receive it. He didn't preach temple worship; He didn't preach going to synagogue or going to church; He didn't preach any complicated ceremonies or difficult rules.—All He did was preach love and show love, as He strove to lead God's children into the true Kingdom of God, whose only laws are to "love the Lord with all thy heart" and "love thy neighbour as thyself".

He had very little to do with the pompous, rich-robed, churchy scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites—the religious leaders of that day—except when they insisted on annoying Him with their critical questions. Then He would let them have it, publicly exposing them as the "blind leaders of the blind" that they were, even telling them that they were like white-washed sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful, clean and holy on the *outside*, but *within* are full of rotteness, corruption and stinking dead

men's bones!

He was not a mere religious reformer, He was a *revolutionary!* He refused to compromise with the false religious system, but rather worked totally outside of it, sharing His love with the poor and common folk who had long ago abandoned and been abandoned by organised religion. He never went into any bar with whip in hand, breaking up the bottles and throwing out the bartender. Nor did He ever enter any brothel, beating up the poor girls, overturning their beds and throwing the men out the window.—But He *did* make a whip, go into their big beautiful religious temple, overturn the tables, spill out the money and drive the money-mad money-changers out of the sanctuary, condemning them for turning what was supposed to be a house of prayer into a den of thieves!

He made Himself of no reputation, and was a companion of drunks, prostitutes and sinners, the outcasts and downtrodden of society. He even told them that *they* would enter the Kingdom of Heaven before the so-called "good" people, the self-righteous and religious leaders who rejected Him and His simple message of love. The power of His love and of His appeal was so great and gave such great faith to the sincere truth-seekers that they didn't hesitate to drop everything they had and immediately forsake all to become His full-time followers!

Once, while crossing a lake in a small boat with His disciples, when a great storm arose and the boat was in danger of sinking, He commanded the winds and the waves to cease—and immediately there was a great calm! His disciples, astonished by such a demonstration of miraculous power, exclaimed to one another, "What manner of man *is* this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!"

Throughout His ministry He gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, cleansed lepers and raised the dead! In fact, so marvellous were His works that they prompted a leading member of the

religious establishment that most bitterly opposed and resented Him to exclaim, "*We know* that You are come from God.—For no man could do these miracles that You do unless God were with Him!"

As His message of love spread and His followers multiplied, the established religion and its jealous leaders realised what a threat He had become to them. His simple doctrine of love was *liberating* the people from the control of the hypocritical high priests, the big-shot religionists, and was therefore destroying their entire religious system, their religious authority, their power and control and hold on people.

These powerful religious enemies finally had Him arrested and brought to trial on false charges of sedition and subversion. Although the Roman governor found Him innocent, he was pressured and persuaded by these religionists to execute Him. Just prior to His arrest, He had said, "They couldn't even touch Me without My Father's permission. If I would but raise My little finger, He would send legions of angels to rescue Me!"—But instead, He *chose* to die, to save you and me. Nobody took His life from Him, He laid it down, He *gave* His life of His own free will and accord.

But even His death did not satisfy His jealous enemies. To ensure that His followers couldn't steal His body and claim He had come back to life, they placed a huge stone over the door of His tomb and posted a detachment of Roman soldiers there to guard it.—A scheme that proved futile, as these same guards became eyewitnesses to the greatest miracle of all.—Three days after His lifeless body was laid to rest in that cold tomb, He *rose* from the dead, the Victor over death and hell forever!

Death itself could not stop His work nor His words! He rose to lead His tiny band of followers to overcome the Roman Empire with love and the power of the Gospel! And the love of God simply rolled right on over His jealous enemies like a giant

tidal wave to cover the whole earth!—And they were left far behind—as dead and dry as He said they would be!

Since that miraculous day nearly 2,000 years ago, this same man, Jesus Christ, has done more to change history and the course of civilisation and the condition of man than any other leader, group, government or empire before Him or since! He has saved *billions* from the fear and uncertainty of a hopeless tomb, and has given eternal life and the love of God to all who call upon His name.

This man, Jesus Christ, is not merely a philosopher or teacher or rabbi or guru, or even a prophet.—He is *the* Son of God! God, the great Creator, is a *Spirit* and is all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere and in everything—far beyond our limited human comprehension! So He sent Jesus, in the form of a man, to show us what He Himself is like and to bring us to Himself. And although many great teachers have spoken and taught *about* love and *about* God, He *is* love and He *is* God!—The only one who died for the sins of the world and rose from the dead! So He's in a class all by Himself, because He's the only *Saviour*. He said, "I am the *Way*, the *Truth*, and the *Life*!—No man comes to the Father but by *Me*!"

How can you find out and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ really is the Son of God, the way to salvation?—The answer is simple: *Try* Him! Simply humble yourself and sincerely ask Him to reveal Himself to you. Ask Him to come into your heart, forgive you for all your sins and fill your life with His love, peace and joy.

He's real and He loves you.—So much so that He died in your place and suffered for your sins, so that you would not have to, if you'll just *receive* Him and His free gift of eternal life. But He can't save you unless you *want* Him to. His love is all-powerful,

but He won't force His way into your life. He gently knocks at the door of your heart.—He doesn't kick it in or break it down. He stands there meekly, in loving patience, waiting for *you* to open up and ask Him in.

Will you receive Him?—If so, He will be the most precious one in your life!—Your closest friend and companion who will be with you *always*!—For He alone is the lover of *all* lovers, who came for love and lived in love and died for love that we might live and love forever!

You can personally receive Jesus into your own heart right *now* by sincerely praying this simple prayer:

"Dear Jesus, please forgive me for all my sins. I believe You died for me. I believe You are the Son of God, and I now ask You to come into my life. I open the door and I invite You into my heart. Please come in, Jesus, and help me to confess You before others that they may find You too. In Your name I ask, amen."

For more information, please write today to:

The Story of LOVE! _____

He came to earth as a tiny, weak and helpless baby, born to a simple, humble young girl who miraculously conceived the child, having never slept with any man! In fact, the news of her pregnancy was so shocking that when the man to whom she was engaged to be married learned about it, he promptly decided to break the engagement and call off the wedding.—Until a powerful celestial being intervened and instructed him to stay with her and protect and care for this very special child that she was carrying.

Although ordained and predestined to be a *king*, in fact the King of kings, He was not born in a palace with famous and glorious members of the court in attendance and the honour and praise of man's system. Instead, He was born on the dirty floor of a barn amidst the cattle and the donkeys, wrapped in rags and laid to rest in the animals' feed-trough.

And though His birth brought no great fanfare or recognition from the institutions and governments of men, that night on a nearby hillside, a humble band of poor shepherds were awestruck as a brilliant, almost blinding light burst upon them from the starry sky and a host of heavenly messengers filled the night with their joyful declaration and song: "Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth to men of good will! For unto you this day is born a *Saviour*, Christ the Lord!"

Far away in the East, another herald appeared in the heavens, a bright star that caught the attention of certain wise men. They interpreted its meaning and followed it, crossing thousands of miles of desert, as it led them to the exact location of the young child in that little town of Bethlehem, where they honoured Him with their precious gifts.