

## Jesus Gave His All

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The platform rose high in front of the massive crowd, pressed together like sardines. Standing on the platform was a man who had led a life of honor and a life of respecting others. For several years, he led a traveling ministry. Wherever he went, he healed not only the bodies, but also the minds and hearts of those who came to him. You might say, he gave life to the ones who crossed his path.

Now, he was being held as a spectacle before the people; this man who had showed them only compassion and cared about their needs. But, he had criticized some leaders in high places for their wrongful behavior. Instead of being grateful for his insight and taking it to heart, they became offended and revengeful. Also, his goodness drove a wedge of jealousy in some. Others, filled with greed, accepted bribes, to tell lies and plant deception about him, hoping to turn the people against him. In the end, the voices of the crowd chimed together to call for this man of integrity and compassion, to suffer a criminal's death. This man was known as Jesus of Nazareth.

But the grave couldn't hold him; after three days, he rose from the dead and ministered for another forty days among the people. Then, in a unique display of power, his friends and disciples watched, as he "was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight" (Acts 1:9). Yet, his acts of love didn't stop. Having returned to heaven, Jesus asked God, our heavenly Father, to send the Holy Spirit to live in those who accepted his gift of forgiveness for their sins.

In the beginning, Jesus was known as "the Word" and was a member of the Godhead (John 1:12). Yet, He willingly gave up his former existence in heaven, to be born through a young virgin girl, by the Holy Spirit (Mat 1:20-21). As God requested, he was named Jesus, because he would save his people from their sins. Long before, he was the one prophesied to be born of a virgin and called Immanuel, which means, "God with us."

Finally, the long-awaited Messiah, the Christ, had arrived; the one who would bring freedom from the penalty and curse of sin. He received the title, Son of God, because he was to be the firstborn among many (Romans 8:29). Everyone who would acknowledge him as God's Son, and their Lord and Savior, would be adopted into God's family, and become known as the children of God (John 1:12).

Jesus, who walked among his people, was later revealed to also be the Creator. He had come to live among his creation (John 1:3). He was willing to give-up his deity to solve mankind's sin problem and become our Savior. He also brought a deeper knowledge of God's love, compassion and mercy. But we find the Creator rejected by his own creation, and unfortunately, it's still occurring today, two thousand years later. But he made it very clear that he would return again, but this time he'll arrive as reigning King and Judge.