

The Big Problem:

opened in prayer

Our Biggest Problem:

Introduce topic: Today I would like to talk about our biggest problem in life.

- You may get sick from time to time. But that's not your biggest problem.
- You may be facing hardships. People may be making fun of you or picking on you. That can be a big problem. But it isn't your biggest problem.
- You may be struggling to do well in school. That can be hard. But it still isn't your biggest problem.
- **You may not be aware of your biggest problem. Our biggest problem is that we will all stand one day before a Holy GOD.**
- To explain my point, let me introduce you to Jake. *(draw jake on flat ground)*. Jake doesn't know that his biggest problem is right below him. *(draw fire below him)*

- Rom. 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness...
- Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Nah. 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.
- 2 Thess. 1:7-8 when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.



I'm Not So Bad:

- Jake might say “No, you have it all wrong. God loves me just the way that I am. I have asked Jesus into my heart.” or “I prayed to accept Jesus”.
- Many of you may be surprised that nowhere in the Bible is it taught that you are saved by praying a prayer or asking Jesus into your heart. The Bible teaches that we are saved through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31). But even faith does not do the saving. Through faith we have access to Jesus, who does the saving.
- Jake might say. “But, I’m a good person. I go to a Christian school.”
 - The reason God is angry is that God is holy or pure (without sin). In fact he is infinitely holy. When Isaiah appeared before God’s throne he saw angels. Even they had to cover their eyes from the holiness of God and they continually say, “holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!” So, when we sin it is like rushing at God to push Him off of His throne (*act this out*). This is a great offense to the King of all kings.
 - Matt 5:48 says “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” God expects us to be **perfect** (without any sin).

Illustration: Show a glass of pure water (even take a drink). Then add one drop of food coloring to show how just **one** sin makes us guilty before God.

Jesus - God’s Solution to Our Greatest Problem.

So we see that Jake is on very shaky ground. But he is not without hope. For God solved our biggest problem by sending Jesus Christ.

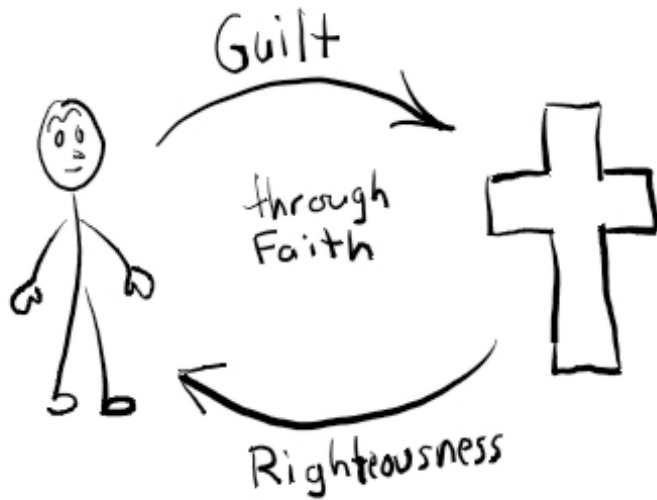
But who is Jesus?

- Jesus is both God and man

How God Solves the Big Problem (explaining justification):

1. Jesus obeyed **all** the 10 commandments in our place. He never sinned.
2. Jesus died in our place. Why? In His love, Jesus satisfied God’s wrath (took our punishment).
3. When the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith and repentance our sin is “credited” to Jesus and His good works are “credited” to us.
 - “For as by one man’s disobedience (*Adam* s) many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience (*Jesus*) many will be made righteous.” - Romans 5:19

(Draw exchange between Jake and cross)



Draw Jake under cross

- When the Holy Spirit gives faith to Jake he flees to the cross of Jesus Christ
- Jake knows he is a sinner deserving God’s punishment
- Jake is trusting **only** in the goodness of another - Jesus and **not in anything he has done.**



- How can we escape God’s wrath? Only by the perfect righteousness or goodness of Jesus Christ, His death on the cross, and His resurrection.

Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel that I preached to you, that you received and on which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received—that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, - 1 Cor.

15:1-4