

40 Days With Jesus
Week #4 – Jesus on “Building the Bridge”

Matthew 5:6 – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
 for they will be filled.

Summary

This sermon will focus on the complete salvation message by bringing the *Bridge* illustration to life. We will examine the basics of Jesus Christ coming to this earth in order to bridge the great chasm that separates man from God. We will also look at the different failed attempts that we have tried to build the bridge ourselves to cross the great chasm.

Four Stages of Building the Bridge

Stage #1 – The Question: Why?

- Scientists – Why an Intelligent Designer? (*Picture of the World from Space*)
- Atheists – Why God? (*Picture of God holding the World*)
- Skeptics – Why Jesus Only? (*Moving Picture of Jesus Carrying His Cross*)
- Seekers – Why follow? (*Pictures of a Broken World*)
- Christians – Why not? (*The Cross*)
- **Matthew 19:16** – Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

Main Question: Why do I need a Bridge?

- **Key Point:** The first stage helps us reflect upon the general questions that mankind has with regard to the need for a Savior, especially Jesus Christ. We will pose the question: *Why do I need a Bridge?* And will answer this question throughout the message.
- **Key Question:** Why does mankind need a divine bridge crossing over to heaven?

Stage #2 – The Response: The Great Chasm

- **Romans 5:12, 18-19** – You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.
- **Romans 3:23** – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- Three Elements of the Great Chasm
 - Distance
 - Sin
 - Death
- **Key Point:** The second stage will respond to the question: Why? We will make the connection that a bridge is only needed if there is a great chasm and the great chasm presented is one that cannot be crossed over by man alone. *No matter how hard we try, our man made bridge will always fall short of crossing the divide.* We will look at the elements that make the chasm so great and why we need a divine bridge.
- **Key Question:** What are ways that we as humans try to build our bridge across this great chasm?

Stage #3 – The Solution: Jesus the One and Only

- **Romans 5:6-8** – You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **John 3:16-17** – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”
- **Key Point:** The third stage will focus our attention on the only solution possible, Jesus Christ. We will point out that Jesus Christ came to be the divine bridge because man could not accomplish this task.
- **Key Question:** Take a moment and compare different world religions to general contractors that might build a bridge. With so many options available today, how is Jesus Christ the only legitimate bridge builder? Explain.

Stage #4 – The Crossing: Death to Life

- **John 5:24** – “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”
- **John 14:6** – Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- **Key Point:** The fourth stage will focus our decision upon the choice that you must make in your lifetime of either crossing over the bridge or attempting to continue building your own bridge. The bridge Jesus Christ builds will always take you from death to life when you make the decision to cross over, 100% guaranteed for eternity.
- **Key Question:** How would you explain the bridge illustration to a non-Christian friend or family member? To a person of another religion?

Questions to Consider

1. What kind of bridge am I trying to build in my life?
2. What are chasms I am trying to cross over? How can I achieve this?

Memory Verse:

Matthew 5:6 – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Application

Continue reading the 40 Day Devotional Guide and answer the one question quiz found in the bulletin.



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