

GOSPEL 'shorts'

The work Of

**THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**



The  
Good  
Samaritan

The following are in no particular order.

**THE WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

1. There was a boy who had committed a crime that deserved to get a certain jail term. It was the case though that the boy had a skilful lawyer who used all his ability to argue for the boy and to obtain freedom for him. This, in a sense, is what Christ has done for us, but in the illustration justice would not seem to have been done, however in our case Christ, not only obtains our freedom by His own greatness but, satisfies justice by paying the price as well. For our illustration to strike a similarity the criminal must be truly penitent, and so must the redeemed of Christ be truly repentant.
2. You have heard it said “such and such was a ‘Godsend’ . God has sent one into the world who was the ultimate ‘Godsend’ . Jesus Christ the Saviour, the ‘Sent One’ .
3. The work of Christ is like an ancient champion of a people, who goes as a representative for his army against the enemy. If he wins, the whole battle is won. Christ has won the battle on that cross of Calvary.
4. There was once a man who famously could walk across Niagara Falls on a tight rope. He even used to carry people on his back! This is like Christ, who carries us safely from death to life with the dangers of hell beneath, and he will not let those He will save fall.
5. The work of Christ is like a people lost after a tragic plane crash. Many have died and many seem likely to die of their wounds. But one man finds the group and goes for help. It is a long and

treacherous journey to save the survivors. The journey is successful, and He returns to save them.

**6.** The work of Christ is like a substitute goalkeeper, rejected from the team. The team will lose if the penalty given against them is scored. The main goalkeeper is plainly not up to the job, so the substitute goalkeeper goes onto the field as the whole team's representative. Their hopes rest on his shoulders, and he saves.

**7.** Do you want the good news or the bad? The bad news is that we are hopeless sinners before God, whom the sins are against. The good news is that the God-man Jesus Christ has given Himself as a representative for those that are brought to understand it and accept it through faith.

**8.** Say someone buys a gift and gives it to you freely and that he earned the money used for the purchase. That someone, must have then had to pay for it, and paid much if it is a costly and precious gift. Christ earned with His perfect life and paid by Calvary's cross, to secure new life for those He would save. This is the free gift of God, and, unlike the free gifts of this world, it is not cheap but very costly and it will not remain unclaimed by God's intended.

**9.** Salvation is like the story of an old house, overgrown and derelict. Overrun with squatters, infested with vermin, decaying and broken down. But a new owner moves in, cuts down the weeds, re-builds, and throws out the squatters and the vermin and in dwells, painting it new.

**10.** In an old country, on a hot day, a man stood in a field of corn. He foolishly lit a small fire that burned out of control. He ran from the flames. As they grew, they started to catch him up. The man remembered that he had been told that a Great Martyr had been burnt at the stake in that very field, and so he ran for that spot, knowing that there the ground was already burnt. He reached the spot just in time, and even though the flames raged around him, he was untouched because of the Martyr's death. Friend, this is what it is to know Christ's saving work for yourself and His salvation.

**11.** From 'The Holy War' by John Bunyan: The town of 'Mansoul' and Prince Emmanuel: "There is a reason that I purchased this town." Said Prince Emmanuel. "Mansoul had trespassed against my Father. My Father had said that the day they broke his law, they would die. Now it is more possible for heaven and earth to pass away than for my Father to break his word. When Mansoul sinned by listening to Diabolus' lie, I offered myself and became a surety to my Father, body for body, and soul for soul. I wanted to make amends for Mansoul's transgressions, and my Father accepted my offer. So when the appointed time came, I gave body for body, soul for soul, life for life, blood for blood, and I redeemed my beloved Mansoul. My Father's law and justice were involved in the transgression, but both are now satisfied; and he is content that Mansoul should be delivered." From the Holy War by John Bunyan.

**12.** In His amazing words, "*Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.*" We can see Christ drawing away God the Father's fierce wrath from man onto Himself, lest God break out against them as the devouring fire of mount Sinai. Drawing the fire, at it were. As if He made himself the prey for a great lion, when before it may have been set against another. He became a curse for us. The selfless act of great love must surely melt our hearts.

**13.** The Pure Heart: From the corner of a group of islands arose a race of souls. Turning from God they at once became wicked and deceitful and death reigned. Many detestable things were done. They forgot God and His ways. The souls chose idols to worship and serve in place of their God. They worshiped the things He had made, being without understanding, and some even imagined themselves to be the same as the beasts of the islands and acted accordingly.

But at an appointed time a 'Pure Heart' had come from God into the islands. He was with God and He was God. He was the Great One, but the souls didn't accept this. His pure heart was much troubled by the wickedness of the islands. He walked a straight path and allowed the souls to take Him and slay Him, for He walked to this end. However an end could not be made of Him for the Pure Heart broke the bands of death and took many with Him from death to life on His own merits.

The ones He took He spared, and they were the poor and needy, and He washed them clean. As He did this great thing the sun hid its face, the separation was torn in two, the land shook and graves were opened. The Pure Heart had saved His people from the plight of the islands and when they were brought to see it they praised God that they should be made objects of His mercy. They became heirs of a kingdom of riches they had never earned but were theirs nevertheless for the sake of their Redeemer.

The others, the proud and unwashed, were gathered up on the Great Day when justice shall be done and received the wages for their sins.

**14.** The Tri-unity of God: The doctrine of the Trinity states that in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the same in essence but distinct in role- three Persons and one Being. The Father is not the Son or the Spirit, the Son is not the Father or the Spirit, and the Spirit is not the Father or the Son, but they are all God. This doctrine is difficult to understand, but this is what God has revealed in the Bible about His own Being, so we should believe it. But would we expect the infinite God to be easy to grasp? To fully understand the being of God is like a gnat trying to drink in the whole ocean! The different senses of oneness and threeness mean that the doctrine is not self-contradictory. This is similar in principle to saying that space contains three dimensions (length, breadth, height), yet the dimensions are not 'parts' - the concept of 'space' is meaningless without all three dimensions.

The Bible reveals, '**God is love**' (**1 John 4:8, 16**). This is distinctive of the Christian faith, and means that love is part of God's very nature, even before He created anything. But love requires at least two persons- self love is not really love at all. So there must be at least two persons in the Godhead. If God were only one person, then love could not be part of His nature. Love is even greater when the love between two persons is not restricted to themselves, but is combined and directed towards another. So for God to exemplify love in its fullest sense, there must be three persons, so there is both individual and collective love.

**15.** "***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***" **John 3:16**

**16.** God the Father punishes Christ as if He were guilty of all the sin of the repentant. God treats the repentant as if we had all Christ's righteousness.

**17.** There is an old saying, that was sometimes used as a sign above litter bins to induce a sense of compunction in the 'would be' polluter, which read;

*'Let no one say it  
And say it to your shame  
That all was beauty  
Until you came'*

If I may be at liberty to apply this more broadly as an illustration, then it may be hung above the entire earth, for of mankind it *has* been said, and said by God Himself in His word, that all was good until man came into the world, and with mankind's fall, sin and death entered. The good news is that conversely;

*'Let it be said  
And said to His acclaim,  
That all was ugly  
Until Christ came.'*

**(Romans 5.12-21)**

**18.** Challenge him, if you dare: There has never been a person like Jesus the carpenter from Nazareth. He cannot be compared with any other religious leader. The claims he made were unique; not least that he was God in the form of a man. What makes it even more fascinating; he demonstrated it by the perfection of his character. Great men have come and gone, and there have been skeletons in all their cupboards. The critics may search, but Jesus Christ was devoid of the dark shadows of sin that hang over the lives of the rest of us. His enemies tried hard to level him with themselves, but no breath of scandal was whispered against him, no juicy bit of gossip was there about his private life. There was simply nothing to say about the matter. So obvious was his unusual purity of character, Jesus was able to challenge his severest critics to find any sin in his life and character. As for his remarkable statements; if someone, however saintly, went around telling people that only by him could they know God, pray or get to heaven, they would burst out laughing. Yet, when Jesus said it nobody laughed. There was 'something' about him that had to be taken very seriously, even when he warned, that those who refused to believe him will spend forever in hell. Many believed him and many did not, but one thing was certain, nobody was indifferent to Jesus, and what he had to say. Those who try to be are taking the biggest of all gambles, with their souls and for eternity. As he said, 'What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?'

**19.** At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God's throne. Most shrank back from the brilliant light before them. But some groups near the front talked heatedly - not with cringing shame but with belligerence. 'Can God judge us?'

'How can he know about suffering?' snapped a pert young brunette. She ripped open a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. 'We endured terror ... beating ... torture ... death!' In another group a black man lowered his collar. 'What about this?' he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. 'Lynched for no crime but being black!'

In another crowd, a pregnant schoolgirl with sullen eyes. 'Why should I suffer?' she murmured. 'It wasn't my fault.'

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering he had permitted in his world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping or fear, no hunger or hatred! What did God know of all that men had been enforced to endure in this world? For God leads a pretty sheltered life, they said.

So each of these groups sent forth their leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. A Jew, a black person, a person from Hiroshima, a horribly disabled arthritic, a thalidomide child. In the centre of the plain they consulted with each other.

At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather clever. Before God could be qualified to be their judge, he must endure what they had endured. Their verdict was that God should be sentenced to live on earth - as a man! Let him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of his birth be doubted. Give him a work so difficult that even his family will think him out of his mind when he tried to do it. Let him be betrayed by his closest friends. Let him face false charges, be tried by a prejudiced jury and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let him be tortured. At last, let him see what it means to be terribly alone. Then let him die in agony. Let him die so that there can be no doubt that he died. Let there be a whole host of witnesses to verify it.

As each leader announced the portion of his sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the throng of people assembled. When the last had finished pronouncing sentence there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew that God had already done it.

**20.** Our souls are like old sailing ships on the sea of life. The ship faces storms and battles, becalming, strong currents or dangerous rocks. We face these in life as our soul travels through, assaulted by it's cares, troubles, hardships, temptations and battles with many enemies. The Bible teaches that we each rebelled against our true Captain and, as it were, mutinied, taking the ship for

ourselves. The question is; who captains your ship now? You? But, as men we can't plot a true course because by nature we are corrupt. We don't even know what will happen tomorrow, we can't even see over the horizon, and the conscience's rudder is damaged and in disrepair. The crew don't keep watch from the crow's nest and are often asleep or drunk with the pleasures of this vain world. That great serpent, the enemy of souls, attacks the ship and boards it, often leading us into danger. What we need is to let the true Captain, Christ Jesus, on board to cast that viscious viper out and then be pronounced Commander of our vessel in order to steer us through to safety and spare us from hitting Him, as the Great Rock which causes men to stumble, and sending us down into the deep. Then the centre of our ship will be that great mast, the cross of Calvary, always in view with the eyes of faith. And our trust in Him will be as a child whose father is the Captain and allows us to hold the wheel from below as He steers it from above.

**21.** "Life is about doing the best we can,...isn't it?" said the woman.

"But what if our best isn't good enough?" said her friend.

"People's best isn't good enough for even us every day, the tube isn't run properly, the man in the car doesn't drive well enough. The evidence of man's short comings are everywhere to see, so the question is- What makes us think that our best can ever be good enough for a perfect place that we hope for and a perfect God?",

"and there's only one other option." said the woman.

"that's right", said her friend.

"So then, we can't win can we".

"We can't, we must realize that, that's the key", said her friend.

"I don't understand?".

"Well, we can't win, but that's not the end of the story, there is great hope, 'good news'. We can rely on Someone else's best to get to that perfect place." "Who's?" said the woman. "You know" said her friend.

**22.** In Bible lands and times, in a market, a piece of paper was placed on an item in order to purchase it. The paper displayed the amount the purchaser was prepared to pay for the goods. If the paper was picked up, it was a signal that the price had been accepted. Likewise, the sign that the atoning death of Christ had redeemed His people was the fact of the resurrection. This showed the Father's acceptance of the price paid.

**23.** A top New York heart surgeon who was doing a mercy-mission operation on an 8-year-old boy in El Salvador had to scrub out in the middle of the procedure so he could donate his own rare-type blood to the patient.

In the May 11 operation, which had begun 12 hours earlier at Bloom Hospital in San Salvador, the boy's failing aortic valve was replaced with his pulmonary valve and the pulmonary valve was replaced with an artificial valve. "The surgery had been going well, everything was working great, but he was bleeding a lot and they didn't have a lot of the medicines we would use to stop the bleeding," Weinstein said. "After a while they said they couldn't give him blood because they were running out and he had a rare type." "We realized he might bleed to death, so I asked what blood type he was and they said he was B-negative and I said, "You know, I'm B-negative." Dr. Robert Michler, founder of the group, was standing next to him and said, "I support you."

Spokeswomen at the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons both said they knew of no similar case and no statistics were kept on doctor-patient blood donations.

This is a good illustration of what happened on the cross of Calvary, but in a much greater way. Jesus, the Christ, the Good Physician, gave himself for those he would save by a vicarious act. His 'blood', as it were, was given for those who would otherwise have lost their lives eternally because

God in his justice will hold men and women to account for their open rejection of Him and a punishment must be meted out. The doctor in our illustration gave his blood freely, and this is true of Christ. It had to be so, for there is clearly nothing we can do to earn such a great pardon and forgiveness from the one true and holy God, for we are unworthy sinners, and it is impossible for us to redeem ourselves in nature or action, we are irredeemable apart from Jesus Christ. The doctor's blood type was rare and he was the only one who could save the boy. Likewise, Christ was the only 'spotless' perfect sacrifice for sin, none other was good enough. None other is there who was able to bare away the weight of such a great transgression of the men and women, from all nations and times, for all eternity. In the space of a few hours he had done it, and the perfect wrath of God had been satisfied. He was raised on the third day, proving the complete success of the atonement. This is the good news for those who seek a reconciliation with their God.

If you know that it is this forgiveness you seek, trust in God's promise, truly ask in prayer, and it shall be received.

**24.** The Bread of Life: The bread came from the harvest, and 12 unleavened loaves made. The bread continued, uncorrupted, it saw no decay. It was found in the time of famine and was broken to feed the people and save them.

**25.** *The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.*

*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.*

*The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

*Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.*

*Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.*

**26.** GRACE (a definition)- God's riches at Christ's expense.

**27.** The love Christ has for men, who have spurned Him and put Him on the cross of Calvary and instead loved and served a cruel world, is like the old legend of a man who married a cruel and jealous woman. The woman was jealous of the man's natural love for his mother. So she said, "If you love me, take your mother's life and give me her heart!" This, the man did. As he returned to his wife, with his mother's heart, he stumbled and fell badly. But the mother's heart cried out "Son! Are you hurt!" What breadth and depth of love is this!

**28.** I once heard an advert appealing for people to give blood. It said, "The most amazing gift anyone can give is their blood". It was intended to apply to the physical body only; however, it could not be truer when applied to the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ:

#### [Matthew 26:28](#)

This is my **blood** of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

#### [Ephesians 1:7](#)

In whom we have redemption through his **blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

#### [Colossians 1:20](#)

And, having made peace through the **blood** of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself;

#### [Hebrews 9:14](#)

How much more shall the **blood** of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

#### [1 John 1:7](#)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the **blood** of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

#### [Revelation 1:5](#)

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own **blood**,

**29.** As if in a dream, I saw one day my Lord, and, feeling low, I asked, “Lord how much do you really care about and love mankind?” He didn’t say a word, but stretched out His arms wide as if to say “This much”. But as I looked closer I realised He was being nailed to a cross. In seeing this, my question was answered.