

13—Why I Need Jesus

1 Corinthians 15:57, *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Introduction: I say it all the time. Sometimes after I’ve had a disturbing encounter with someone who has talked or acted shamefully. Sometimes when I’ve met with a married couple encountering marriage struggles. Sometimes after I’ve watched the news and seen more reports of violence, or misconduct, or crime. Sometimes it is after people have individually made a mess of their lives and cannot seem to figure out how to dig out of the hole. Sometimes it is after I’ve heard of yet another suicide by one who had given up all hope. I often say, “This is why people need the Lord.”

I say it because if more people would truly surrender their lives to the will and ethic of Jesus we’d see less messes in our lives, less bad news and more good news, less marriage problems and more marriage success, less hurt relationships and more healing in our relationships, less hopelessness and more hopefulness. I truly believe people need Jesus. You need Jesus. We need Jesus. I need Jesus. Yet, before you will live for Jesus you need to realize why you need Him. Today, think with me about a few reasons why I need Jesus.

I. I Need Jesus As My Savior (John 14:6)

- A. I was a sinner (Romans 3:23).
- B. I was condemned (John 3:17–18).
- C. I was unable to save myself (Romans 5:6–8).
- D. Jesus is able to save me from my sins (Hebrews 7:26).

II. I Need Jesus As My Intercessor (1 John 2:1, 2; Job 9:25–35)

- A. I still sin... not because I have to ... (1 Corinthians 15:34; 1 Corinthians 10:13)
- C. Sin still condemns (1 John 3:8; 2 Peter 2:20–22).
- D. Jesus still saves (Romans 4:25; 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 1:7, 9).

III. I Need Jesus For An Example (1 Peter 2:21–22).

- A. He is Worthy of Imitation (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- B. The power of example (1 Thessalonians 1:6, 7)
- C. Jesus is the perfect example (1 John 2:6).

IV. I Need Jesus to Give Life Meaning (John 4:13,14).

- A. The most of life w/ nothing to live for (Matthew 16:24–26).
- B. Purpose, meaning, direction (Colossians 1:16b)
- C. Christ satisfies! (Matthew 5:6; 11:18–20)

V. I Need Jesus for Daily Strength (Philippians 4:13).

- A. We cannot face everything alone (Ecclesiastes 4:9–12; John 16:32).
- B. God is our refuge in times of trouble (Hebrews 13:5, 6).
- C. We have the promise of His help in all our trials (1 Corinthians 10:13).

VI. I Need Jesus to win the victory over death (Hebrews 2:14,15).

- A. We all fear death—unknown, uncertainty, unnatural condition.
- B. A senseless bitter end to life w/o Jesus (Romans 6:19–23).
- C. Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15)

Conclusion: I can confidently say Jesus has changed my life. I can also confidently say the times in my life when I chose to live away from Jesus often caused heartache either to myself and others. I can confidently proclaim that if I choose to continue following Jesus I will have no regrets as I take my final breath on this earth because I know Jesus is waiting to greet me as a fellow victor!