If Jesus Had Not Come

John 15:22 *If I had not come* and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.

What if Jesus had not come?

- Let me wax carnal for a moment: The old movie, It’s a Wonderful Life, was a family tradition when I was a kid.
  - Maybe you are familiar with it?
  - In the story George Bailey, a kind hearted individual who has spent his whole life helping others, finds himself in a hopeless situation on Christmas Eve.
  - In a moment of despair, he wishes that he had never been born – Only to discover a few moments later that the wish has been granted.
  - The movie is an eye-opening look at how Bedford Falls would have been if George had never been born.
  - In the end he realizes what a tragic wish he has made.

- Tonight I find myself in a curious state of mind.
  - In this Christmas Season we celebrate the fact that God robed himself in flesh and came to the world as a baby at Bethlehem.
  - I doubt that this is the time of year that he was truly born and I certain that the date is wrong, but the fact still remains that this is, from a Christian perspective the whole reason for the season.
  - Jesus has come. God, in the fullness of time, saw fit to come and visit this world.
  - In the frailty of humanity he met our greatest foe and conquered him.
  - God bore the weight of sin and suffering upon his back all the way to dark Calvary and, because he came, we are able to celebrate liberty from sin and bondage in our own lives.

- But, as I read the words of Jesus today, I couldn’t help but wondering... What if he hadn’t come?
  - Think about it for a moment: What if Jesus had not come into this world?
    - What if Jesus had not left His home in glory and come down to this sin-cursed earth?
    - What if He had never bled and died that we might have life?
    - What if there were no silent night in Bethlehem?
    - What if there was no manger where they laid that baby boy?
    - What if the shepherds had never heard a choir of angels singing?
    - What if wise men had never journeyed from afar, following the Christmas star?
    - What if Jesus had never come?
If Jesus Had Not Come

It may seem like a foolish question
But my purpose is not to waste your time on the trivial but rather draw your attention to the most important truth about this holiday season.

I can't help but wonder if, perhaps, we have been guilty of taking for granted what this season really stands for.

- We celebrate the fact that He came!
- It would be impossible to enumerate the blessings that we enjoy, all because Jesus condescended to grace this old earth with His presence.
- Have we taken those blessings for granted?

If Jesus had not come, the promises of the word of God would be unfulfilled.
If Jesus had not come, the world would still be in darkness.
If Jesus had not come, there would be no bridge across the gulf of sin.
If Jesus had not come, we would not know just how much He loves us.
If Jesus had not come, there would be no hope beyond the grave.
If Jesus had not come, there would be no Savior for sin.

"If I had not come...", said Jesus.
- Let's briefly consider, tonight, this question that Jesus raised some two thousand years ago.
- What if Jesus had not come?
- Let us try to imagine a world without Him.
- Have you ever really tried to imagine the condition of this world without Jesus?

NO CHURCH
- First of all, there would be no church.
  - Of course, there would be no Christian religion without our Savior; for He is the founder of Christianity.
  - To be a Christian is to believe in, obey, and follow Jesus.
  - He is, as Paul puts it, "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).
  - Without Jesus there would be no church.
- This world needs a church!
  - This city needs a church!
    - We are a lighthouse in this city.
    - If Jesus had not come, there would be no light shining in the darkness!
- This Christmas season, I want you to recognize the value of the church!
  - Because Jesus came, there is a haven of hope in a world of despair.
  - Because Jesus came, there is a place where hearts can be healed,
  - Where lives can be made brand new
  - Where old things can pass away and all things can become new
Because there’s a church!

- You need the church!
  - The church needs you!
  - And it was all made possible only because Jesus came to a manger in Bethlehem!

NO REMISSION OF SINS

- If Jesus had not come there would be no remission of sins.
  - The law with its blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin.
  - Only the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, who came to take away the sins of the world, could atone for the sins of humanity.
  - Paul in Hebrews 10:4 says, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."
  - Also in Hebrews 9:12, we read from Paul again, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."
  - So there is no remission of sins without Jesus.

- Since we have all "sinned and come short of the glory of God," [Romans 3:23],
  - if Jesus had not come to take away our sins,
  - humanity would stagger beneath the weight of sin and never find relief.
  - There would be no place of rest along the highway of life where weary souls could cast their care upon the One who really cares.
  - The course of humanity would be one long downward trudge, toward the eternal night of despair, if Jesus had not come.

- What a wonderful savior we have!
  - None of us is worthy
  - All of us has fallen short
  - But grace and mercy have found us and lifted us out of amirey clay and set our feet on a rock to stay.
  - None of that would ever be possible if Jesus had never come!

WE COULD NOT KNOW GOD

- If the Lord had not come to this earth, we would not have a correct picture of God.
  - We could never have known what God is like if Jesus had not come.
  - The mind of man has ever turned toward the heavens in search of his creator.
  - Man has longed to know what God is like.
  - For centuries prophets, poets, and sages have sought a way to search out God, to know him, to really know about him.
  - But it was not until God gave us a full length portrait of himself in the person of Jesus Christ that we could know the very nature of the Deity.
Jesus was made in the image of the invisible God, says Paul in Colossians 1:15.

Jesus declared, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" and "He that has known me has known the father."

Because he came, we can know God.

Because He came we can walk with God.

God no longer abides in a tent concealed from this people.

He now abides within in us – because Jesus Christ came to this world!

NO HOPE

If Jesus had not come, you and I would have no hope of eternal life.

It was He who gave to the world a picture of the other side of death.

Until His coming, the hope of life beyond the grave was no more than a faint glimmering ray.

 Humanity cried: "If a man die shall he live again?"

But man could find no answer.

Finally Jesus came, died, lived again, and answered the question that had been in the minds of people.

Yes, if men die they shall live again through Jesus our Lord.

However, this assurance of immortality would never have been if Jesus had not come.

Paul says, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22).

My hope is not in this world.

My hope is not in people, places, or possessions.

My hope is not in my wealth or my position.

My hope is in Christ alone!

Because He came – I have hope in my soul!

Because He came – I can face tomorrow!

All because He came!

Jesus said, in our text: "If I had not come and spoken unto them they had not had sin, but now they have no cloak for their sin."

The coming of Jesus placed a responsibility upon us.

With the opportunity to be saved from sin, there came our responsibility of accepting salvation on God’s terms.

Jesus said, “I am the way the truth and the life, no man cometh to the Father but by me.”

He is the door by which we enter eternal life.

He is the door to the sheepfold.

If he had not come, there would have been no door.

But since he came, and since there is a door, we have a responsibility to make sure we come through that door!

Because he came the door of heaven is open to whosoever will.
• All will stand in judgment having encountered an open door in this life.
• Some will have walked through it while others will have ignored it.
  o But that door makes us responsible for our eternal soul.
  ▪ That’s why he came!
• The miracle of Christmas is that He came!
  o While the world was busy embracing darkness.
  o While humanity was distancing itself from its creator.
  o While we were lost and undone – Jesus came!
    ▪ God was moving toward us while we were moving away from him!
• Jesus came to a world that didn’t know he was coming and didn’t care that he had arrived.
  o He came unto His own but His own didn’t know Him.
  o Like a light He shined into the darkness but men hid their eyes from the light.
  o He is the center of human history.
  o His birth is the hinge on which the door of history swings.
• All of human history points to that child laying in a mange, to the cross where he died and to the an empty tomb in Jerusalem!
  o That’s why He came!
  o Redemption was in view from the foundations of the earth.
  o Jesus is the lamb that was slain in the mind and purpose of God before he ever started to speak the worlds into existence!
  o He came to open the door of salvation – once and for all!

Close

Its no wonder that angels sang on that blessed night, “Fear not! For I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Jesus the Lord” (Luke 2:11-12).

• He came!
  o And I’m so glad He came!

In the end it becomes very personal.

• We all need a Savior.
  o We all needed Him.
  o If He had not come, we would all be lost and undone!
  o But because He came we have hope and life and that more abundant!

This Christmas Season the whole world needs to know why Jesus came!

• The glory of it all is that the He came and because He came we a hope for the hopeless!
• This city needs to know that Jesus came and because he came they don’t have to be trapped in some generational curse.
• Because he came they don’t have to stay addicted to some momentary pleasure that drains their life of all meaning.

This Christmas you need to tell someone that God has a gift for them.
• It’s not wrapped in bright paper and fancy ribbons
• But it was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.
• Jesus Christ is the gift of God to the whole world!
• He came!
• And you and I need to go share that truth with someone else in this holiday season.
• Jesus Christ has come!