

Jewish scientist Testimony

by James Tour

This sermon shares the powerful testimony of a Jewish man who, despite his successful career and upbringing, encountered Jesus and experienced a profound transformation in his life. Through encounters with Christians and the Bible, he came to realize his need for forgiveness and salvation, ultimately leading him to accept Jesus as the Messiah. His journey highlights the deep impact of encountering the truth of sin, the sacrifice of Jesus, and the personal experience of God's presence and forgiveness.

Scripture: Romans 3:23, Matthew 5:28, Hebrews 9:22, Isaiah 53:5, John 3:16, Acts 4:12, Romans 10:9, Psalm 32:5, Revelation 3:20

Topics: "Transformation", "Encountering Jesus"

Description

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Transcript

I got my PhD in the field of organic chemistry, postdoc at Stanford University. Joined the group of a man who was going to win a Nobel Prize in chemistry. Voted one of the top 50 most influential minds in the world.

I was a visiting scholar at Harvard University. I've spoken at every major university in this country. Have over 650 research publications.

Voted the R&D Magazine Scientist of the Year. I'm in the National Academy of Inventors. I'm a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Over 120 patents. Started seven or eight companies. We work in areas that range from medicine to material science to electronics, computer memory, medical devices.

We work across a broad range of areas. But more than any of that, what means the most to me is that I'm a Jew who believes that Jesus is the Messiah. I grew up just outside of New York City.

I thought everybody was Jewish. I didn't even know that there was anything else. I had no particular interest in that.

Other than when all my friends were getting bar mitzvahed or bat mitzvahed and then I would attend, of course, every week. There was never really any excitement for me. I remember once I even tried to talk to a rabbi.

He just brushed me off. There was very little explanation for me. I remember when I went to college, I started meeting a number of people that said that they were born-again Christians, which was sort of an odd term.

I was, what's born again? What do you mean born again? One person saw me in the laundry room. He said, do you mind if I give you an illustration of the gospel? I remember we sat there and he actually started to draw a picture, a cliff with a man on one side and he drew a little man and then another cliff with God on the other side and a big chasm in between that he labeled sin. I looked at him.

I said, I'm not a sinner. I've never killed anyone. I never robbed a bank.

How could I be a sinner? He had me read a verse from the Bible for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. In modern Judaism, we never really talked about sin. I don't remember ever talking about sin in my home.

So he turned to another passage. Jesus said, I say to you that everyone who looks upon a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Pow, I fell.

Just as if I'd been punched right in the chest. Here I was, new in college. I didn't think anybody knew.

I would pick up these magazines and I became addicted to pornography. It was just through those magazines. All of a sudden, something that's written in the Bible, somebody who lived 2,000 years ago was calling me out on it.

And I felt immediately convicted and that now I realized I was a sinner. I learned when I read in the scriptures what sin is, then I knew I was a sinner. How am I gonna get to God? We Jews know this better than anyone else.

Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin. This description in Isaiah 53 of how he will bear upon himself my sin, the things that I had done, and this was him. This was the man that took this upon himself on the cross.

The perfect God comes and gives himself for us. He is the one that gives himself for us. I started to realize how Jewish the New Testament is.

This book is so Jewish. The New Testament is so Jewish. It's all around Jewish people.

And then on November 7th, 1977, I was all alone in my room. The realization that Yeshua is the one who died on the cross. And I said, Lord, I am a sinner.

Please forgive me. Come into my life. And then all of a sudden, someone was in my room and I opened my eyes.

I was on my knees. I opened my eyes. Who was in my room? That man, Jesus Christ, stood in my room.

This amazing sense of God. Jesus was in my room and I wasn't scared. All I started doing was just weeping.

The presence was so glorious because he was there in my room on that day. And I didn't want to get up. And this amazing sense of forgiveness just started to come upon me.

That was him. Finally, I got up. I didn't know what to do.

Didn't know who to tell. Here's this Jewish kid from New York City. What am I gonna say? My cousins were shocked.

How could you do that? You're Jewish. Telling my mother how I had invited Jesus into my life. She didn't say much.

She was weeping. She told my father they weren't happy at all. And she said, I don't blame them for killing Jesus after the things that he said.

Who is he to come against these religious leaders that have dedicated their lives to helping people and to tell them that there are whitewashed tombs? Who is he, this young man in his 30s, to say this to these scholars? He got what he deserved. And my mother's a very deep, pensive, careful reader. She read from Genesis right on through the Tanakh, the whole thing.

When she got done, I said, what did you think? She said, God warned us over and over again. He warned us. When my daughter was about 15, my mother and father came to visit us.

At one point, my mother went into our room for several hours. She came out. She said, what a young girl you have.

She talked to me for a long time. She started reading the Bible again, both the Old and the New Testament. One day, not long after that, she called me on the phone at the age of 72.

She said, Jimmy, you wouldn't believe what happened. I said, what happened? She said, I was just reading. And it hit me.

It hit me, the way he gave his life. I believe it now. Jesus is the son of God.

Amen.

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