

## Buddha's 4 Nobel Truths Point to Christ

*After trying out Buddha's 4 Nobel Truths on a variety of people in Cambodia, this is something like the method I've found to be effective.*

Did you know that Buddha taught 4 important truths that help us to understand about Jesus?

### Truth #1: Life is suffering

In Khmer, we have a saying, "Have a body, have suffering". Is that right?

What about rich people, do they have suffering?

Is it enough to aim to be richer in the next life?

### Truth #2: Suffering is caused by sin and bad karma

Is this true? Does that mean that even rich people have sin and bad karma? What about you?

### Truth #3: There is a place with no suffering

Buddha called this place nirvana, but in Jesus we call it the highest heaven. It is the place with no suffering and no sin. This is where Jesus came from and told us all about it. God wants us to be there with him.

### Truth #4: How you get to nirvana

Do you know how you get to nirvana? {Usual answers revolve around going to the temple, making offerings, doing good works}

Actually Buddha didn't teach that at all. What Buddha said is that to get to nirvana you have to be perfect in 8 areas of life: (the Eight-fold path)

1. Right Understanding សម្មាទិដ្ឋិ (ការយល់ឃើញត្រូវ)
2. Right Aspirations សម្មាសង្កប្បៈ (ការត្រិះរិះត្រូវ)
3. Right Speech សម្មាវាចា (សំដីត្រូវ)
4. Right Behaviour សម្មាកម្មន្ត (កិរិយាត្រូវ)
5. Right Occupation សម្មាអាជីវៈ (របររកស៊ីត្រូវ)
6. Right Effort សម្មាវាយាមៈ (ការព្យាយាមត្រូវ)
7. Right Mindfulness សម្មាសតិ (ការភ្ញាក់រលឹកត្រូវ)
8. Right Meditation សម្មាសមាធិ (ការផ្តួងចិត្តត្រូវ)

How do you think you're doing on all that? Do you think you have much hope of getting to nirvana when you die?

This is where Buddha and Jesus are different. Buddha said that you have to save yourself. You just have to keep trying over and over again until you reach perfection in these 8 areas of life. But Jesus knew that it would be too hard for you. He loves you and came to earth, took all of your sin and bad karma on himself, so that you can have his perfection and go to be with him in nirvana.