

# THE SERMON AT BENARES

**Growing Up as a Prince:** Once upon a time in North India, there was a prince named Siddhartha Gautama, who later became Buddha. He lived in a royal family and had a happy childhood.

## **Discovering Life's Challenges:**

At the age of twelve, Siddhartha was sent to study, got married, and lived a royal life for ten years. One day, he saw sickness, old age, death, and a monk who taught him about life's difficulties. This made Siddhartha curious to find deeper answers.

## **The Turning Point:**

Realizing that life involves suffering, Siddhartha decided to leave his royal life to seek wisdom. After finding enlightenment, he shared his insights in a city called Benares.

## **A Mother's Pain and Wisdom:**

One story he shared was about Kisa Gotami, a mother who lost her son. Buddha helped her understand that grief wouldn't bring him back. Through a simple task, she realized the inevitability of life's cycle.

## **Wisdom for a Happy Life:**

Buddha believed that feeling sad and grieving doesn't help. Knowing and accepting the natural course of life brings true happiness. The Sermon at Benares showed how understanding life's realities can free us from unnecessary pain and suffering.

## Extract Based Questions:

1. The Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, the most holy of the dipping places on the River Ganges; that sermon has been preserved and is given here. It reflects the Buddha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering.

**Q/A:**

**a. Name the holiest of the dipping places on the River Ganges where the Buddha preached his first sermon**

**Ans:** Benares.

**b. What does Buddha's first sermon reflect?**

**Ans:** Buddha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering.

**(c) What did Gautama do after getting on light emend?**

**Ans:** After getting enlightenment, he began to teach and share his new understandings with the common people.

**(d) How was he known then?**

**Ans:** As he started preaching, he was known as Buddha, meaning, the awakened or the enlightened one

2. Kisa Gotami became weary and hopeless and sat down at the wayside watching the lights of the city, as they flickered up and were extinguished again. At last, the darkness of the night reigned everywhere.

**Q/A:**

**(a) Why do you think Kisa Gotami became weary and hopeless**

**Ans :** It was because she could not find a house where no one had died.

**(b) How many sons did Kisa Gotami have?**

**Ans:** Only one.

**(c) What did she notice while sitting at the wayside?**

**Ans:** She noticed the flickering lights of the city.

**(d) What message did she get from the flickering and extinguishing lights of the city?**

**Ans:** Their lives flicker up and are extinguished.

## Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

**1. Kisa compared human life to an inanimate object. What is it and why does she do so?**

**Answer:** Kisa compared human life with the lights of the city which flicker up and extinguished again and the darkness of the night spreads everywhere. Similarly, the human takes birth, flickers up, and then extinguishes the life of the remains. She compared so because the darkness of sadness spreads in use she was in great grief of the death of his

**2. Where and when did Siddhartha became the Buddha?**

**Answer:** At the age of 25, Siddhartha confronted a sick man then an age-sight moved funeral procession, and finally a monk. Palace and wandered for seven years to shed seedlings team the tree 'The Bodenheim Tree' until enlightenment came. He renames Finally so much that he even allied with Heat Swath, a teen admiral

**3. Which people are referred to as "wise" by the Buddha in his sermons?**

**Answer:** Buddha preached in his sermons that everything that is born will come to an end. Death is inevitable: both young and adult or fools and wise are subject to death. But the people who do not grieve, knowing the terms of the world are called wise people. Wise people neither weep nor grieve.

**4. How did the Buddha teach Kisa Gotami the truth of life?**

**Answer:** Buddha changed Kisa's thinking with the help of a simple act—asking her to procure a handful of mustard seeds from a house where none had died. She could not understand it. But, gradually she understood that death is inevitable.

**5. Describe the life of Gautama Buddha before enlightenment.**

**Answer:** Buddha was earlier a prince and lived in luxury. When he encountered suffering and grief, it made him sad. He renounced everything and went in search of riddance from suffering. He wandered for seven years. Then, one day, he sat under a fig tree and vowed not to leave until he was enlightened.

### **6. What sights moved Siddhartha Gautama to seek the path of enlightenment?**

**Answer:** While going hunting Gautam saw a sick man, an old man, a funeral procession, and a monk begging. This encounter with the sufferings and grief moved him and he left to seek the path of enlightenment.

### **7. Kisa Gotami was selfish and grief-stricken. Justify.**

**Answer:** Kisa Gotami lost her only son. In her grief, she carried her dead child everywhere and asked people to cure him. As instructed by Buddha she went door to door to get a handful of mustard seeds with the condition that there should not be any loss of a child. Husband, parent, or friend. In her grief, she forgot that everyone had to suffer such type of loss in his or her family Death is common to all. But in her grief, she became selfish and tried to fulfill the impossible condition.

### **8. What were the sights that moved and shocked Gautama?**

**Answer:** Prince Gautama had been deliberately shielded from all the sufferings of the world. One day he chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, and then a funeral procession. Finally, he saw a monk begging for alms. These sights moved him. He went out into the world to seek the solution to all these sufferings. He wanted to seek enlightenment.

**9. The life of mortals in this world is troubled and brief and combined with pain. With this statement of the Buddha find out the moral value that Kisa Gotami learnt after the house and was unable to get wanted the mustard seeds. table: grief death of her child.**

Kisa Gotami lost her only son. In her neighbors, asking them to provide medicine for her son. A man suggested her to Buddha. Buddha asked her to bring a handful of mustard seeds but she should get it to the house where no one had lost any near and dear ones. But she could not get any such Of Kisa Gotami went from door to door requesting mustard seeds. People pitied her Do is troubled. Only then did Buddha make her understand that the life of mortals in this world and grief combined with pain. Now Kisa understood the reality too realized the fate of men that their lives flick the reality of death. Her underskirts that death is common to all of us. Now she l' up and extinguish again.

**10. Why did Kisa Gotami understand the message given by the Buddha only the second time? In what way did the Buddha change her understanding?**

**Answer:** Kisa Gotami had lost her only son and in grief, she carried her dead son to all her neighbors to get him cured and restored to life. Finally, she went to the Buddha asking him for the medicine to cure her boy. The Buddha felt that she needed to be enlightened about the truth of life — that death and sorrow are inescapable. He could see that grief had blinded her, and it would be difficult for her to accept the truth. So the Buddha told her to procure mustard seeds from a house where none had died. Kisa Gotami went from door to door. Then she realized that there was no house where no one had died and that death is common to all. She came back to the Buddha where He sermonized her that life in this world is troubled and filled with sorrows. He gave her examples of ripe fruits and earthen vessels whose 'lives' are short. This way he made her realize that death is unavoidable and none — even the near and dear ones — can save anyone from death.