

WHO IS JESUS?

Introduction

A personal story – “who is this man?”

1. The Person of Jesus Christ

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, all the Parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

Phillip Brooks.

All major world religions acknowledge Jesus as remarkable, unique and special.

- Islam and Hinduism regard him as a unique prophet.
- Our Western calendar is based upon him.
- The British / Western legal system and systems of government are based upon his teaching and principles.
- He is the subject of countless thousands of books on the central character and the best selling book of all time, the bible.

2. There are four major views concerning Jesus Christ.

- i. no opinion
- ii. an imaginary figure
- iii. a good teacher / prophet
- iv. the unique son of God – second person of the trinity – God become man

The whole of Christianity stands or falls on who the person of Jesus Christ is.

a) He was full human.

- He slept, he ate, he talked, he thought, he was tempted, he experienced grief, he experienced rejection, he experienced fear, he had friends, he was hated, he needed to breathe, he needed to drink, he needed to eat.
- He was born of a woman.

b) He was fully divine. Jesus claimed to be God's presence on earth and the answer to the World's deepest needs.

1. *I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.* John 8:12
2. *I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.* John 11: 25 – 26
3. *Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.* Matthew 11:28
4. *I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.* John 6:36
5. *I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.* John 14:6
6. Jesus claims to forgive our sins. *'Son, your sins are forgiven'* Mark 2:5.
7. He claimed that there was a day coming when he would judge the entire world and everyone who's lived in it. John 8:16
8. He claimed to have existed before the world began. John 8:58 *'I tell you the truth', Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'* At this they picked up stones to stone him.
9. Jesus claimed to perfectly represent God the Father. John 14:8 *Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us'. Jesus answered 'Don't you know me Philip, even after I have been among*

you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me as seen the father'.

3. The Miracles of Jesus

Jesus did not just claim extraordinary things about himself, but he demonstrated the extraordinary power of God.

The miracles reveal his

- authority over creation
- authority over evil spirits
- authority over sickness
- authority over death

4. Our response to Jesus Christ

There are only 3 possible alternatives to Jesus Christ

Liar	Mad
Lunatic	Bad
Lord	God

Was Jesus mad?

If you were to take the sum total of all the authority of articles ever written by the most qualified psychologists and psychiatrists on the subject of mental health and refine them and have this knowledge expressed by the most capable of living poets, you would have an awkward and incomplete summation of the sermon on the mount.

Was Jesus bad?

I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world, there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander the Great, Caesar Charlemagne and I founded empires. But on what did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love and at this hour millions of men would die for him. Napoleon Bonaparte

You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up as a fool, you can spit on him and kill him as a demon – or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about him being a great human teacher. He has not left that choice open to us. He did not intend to. C.S. Lewis.

Was Jesus God?

The one option that is not available to us given Jesus' teaching is that he was claimed to be a good man, a good teacher or just another prophet pointing us to God. In his own claims, he pointed to himself and claimed something utterly unique about himself. The Jewish leaders of his day understood what he was saying and were so offended at his extravagant claims that it was this that led them to crucify him. Jesus knew exactly what he was doing!

The nearer I approach, the more carefully I examine – everything is above me. Everything remains grand, with a grandeur that overpowers. His religion is a revelation from an intelligence that is certainly not that of man. I search in vain for a person who is similar to Jesus Christ or anything with which I can approach the gospels. Neither history nor humanity nor the ages nor nature offer me anything with which to compare so that I can explain it. Here is everything extraordinary. Napoleon Bonaparte.