

How Was Jesus Different?

Matthew
16:13

Acts 4:12, Peter declared salvation found only in Jesus

John 14:6, Jesus claimed, “I am the way...”

- **Matthew 16:13ff**, Jesus asked, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

Peter noted different answers.

Vs. 16, But Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

- **What was it about Peter and others that prompted them to reach this conclusion?**

- It is no secret we are living in an age of increased skepticism, including numerous challenges as to whether Jesus was real
- While most historical scholars acknowledge His existence, their perception of Him often differs: A philosopher, an activist, a good Pharisee, or a deceiver. Some portray He was misunderstood.
- All such suppositions stem from a refusal to see Him as portrayed in the gospels!

- BUT if we were to examine the gospels with an open mind, humility and unbiased, we can see how Jesus was different and WHY we ought to believe in Him.
- **Tonight, 7 ways Jesus was different.**

He thought differently!

- He lived within a Jewish community and was raised as a faithful Jew
- At age 12, He was in Jerusalem (**Luke 2:41-52**)
- **But He did not think like many of the Jewish leaders!**
- He taught the law accurately, AS intended!
The sermon on the mount, distinguishing between tradition and law
- He had compassion upon the rejected. E.g., the Samaritan woman

He thought differently!

- He was often misunderstood by His apostles
- **Matthew 16:6ff**, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.
Matthew 18:1-5 - as they argued about greatness, Jesus found a little child.
- **Matthew 20:27** - least is the greatest, the poor would be rich, to be first serve, the meek inherit the earth, etc.

He taught differently!

- **Matthew 7:28-29**, as one who had authority
- **John 7:46**, no man ever spoke like this Man.
- **John 2:24-25 (6:15), 1:47** - He knew Nathaniel; **Matthew 19:21** - He knew the heart of the rich, young ruler
- **Matthew 22:17-22** - He could never be entrapped with His teachings
- **Matthew 13:10-11** - He taught in parables

He made powerful claims

- **John 10:30**, relationship with His Father
- **John 8:58**, Before Abraham was, I AM
- **Matthew 16:16-17** - He accepted Peter's declaration
- **John 14:6** - only access to the Father
- **Luke 7:47, Matthew 9:2-6** - He forgave sins

He did things no one else did

- **Luke 1**, His entrance into the world, including prophecies
- He performed miracles - **Matthew 9:2-8**, **Luke 7:22-23** - to prove Himself;
John 10:25, 37-38 - He appealed to His works to believe Him
John 10:19-21, 7:31, 11:45 - others, “got it”!
- **John 20:30-31** - these are written...

He did things no one else did

- **Matthew 8:2, 9:18, 14:33, 28:9, 17** - He accepted worship!
- **Matthew 16:21, 17:23, John 3:14-15** - He even predicted His own death and resurrection

He lived differently

- **John 8:46**- He practiced what He preached. He kept the LOM perfectly AND as intended! What He condemned and did not do was bind the traditions of men - **Matthew 15:1-9**
- **1 Peter 2:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15** - He lived a sinless life
- **Philippians 2:5-8, Matthew 20:28** - He lived a selfless life
- His possessions were few - **cf. Matthew 8:20**

He had an impact like no other

- **John 1:11-12, 3:18-20** - loved by many, especially the common man. Despised by lovers of darkness
- **John 12:31-32** - He declared that he would draw all to Him
- **John 3:2** - Nicodemus
- **John 6:68-69** - His apostles were convicted (though they did not fully understand)
- **The depth of their conviction is seen after He arose**

He made demands like no other

- He made demands that only deity could
- **Luke 13:3 & 5, Matthew 4:17** - He called for repentance
- **Luke 14:26-27, 33** - He called for man to deny himself and completely follow Him
- **John 14:15** - Loving Him is based on obeying Him
- **John 13:34-35** - Love others even as He had loved them
- **BUT He also made promises like no other –
Matthew 11:28-30, Mark 10:29-31**

Considering who Jesus is,
will you follow Him?

How was Jesus Different?

Let us pray!

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