

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Introduction: Jesus is one of the central figures of our faith. We find several places that admonish us to look to Jesus for salvation, for His example, and as our Lord and King. I want to spend a few moments considering the importance of Jesus' life and as we go throughout this week, consider various aspects of Jesus' life and all that He has accomplished for us so we may turn our eyes upon Him and give Him the glory that He deserves.

I. Jesus Serves as the Focal Point of History:

- A. Throughout the life of Jesus, many were confronted with the reality of Jesus and considered Him seriously:
1. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, many saw the fanfare and wondered, 'Who is this?' Matthew 21:10
 2. Simon the Pharisee asked, 'Who is this man who even forgives sin?' Luke 7:49
 3. Herod after hearing of the works of Jesus asked, 'Who is this man about whom I hear such things?' Luke 9:9
 4. Jesus was teaching about His death and they respond by asking, 'Who is this Son of Man?' John 12:34
 5. At some point, every person will be confronted with the reality of Jesus. We must ask who is this Jesus and understand who He is and if He is worthy of our love and service.
 - a. Pilate asked: Matthew 27:22
 - b. Jews, crucify Him: 27:23
 - c. Judas, I will sell Him: 26:15
 - d. Peter, deny Him: 26:74
 - e. Saul, persecute Him: Acts 9:4
 - f. Felix, I will wait: Acts 24:25
- B. There is no life that has had a greater impact on humanity than Jesus. In 1926 James A Francis wrote an essay entitled, *One Solitary Life*. It reads:
He was born in an obscure village, The child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, Where he worked in a carpenter shop Until he was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles From the place where he was born. He did none of the things One usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.
- He was only thirty-three When the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies. And went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross Between two thieves. While he was dying, His executioners gambled for his clothing, The only property he had on Earth.
- When he was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave Through the pity of a friend. Twenty centuries have come and gone, And today he is the central figure Of the human race, And the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, All the navies that ever sailed, All the parliament that ever sat, All the kings that ever reigned, Put together have not affected The life of man on Earth As much as that *One Solitary Life*.
- C. Thus, a study of Jesus is crucial and one that should cause us to turn our eyes upon Him as we behold His glory.
1. Even throughout the Bible we find Jesus being the center of history: Galatians 4:4-5, Ephesians 1:7-10
 2. Jesus has such an impact on the world since He is the savior: Luke 2:11, Romans 5:8
 3. He is our example: Hebrews 4:15-16, 1 Peter 2:21
 4. He is our hope: John 14:1-3, Hebrews 6:19

II. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus:

- A. O Soul are you weary and troubled, no light in the darkness you see. There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free.
1. Many are living in darkness, while there are many who wish to do so, there are others who are seeking for some light and Jesus is the light of the world: John 8:12
 2. Thus we look to Jesus for His light so we can live in His light: Hebrews 12:2, Ephesians 5:8
 3. As we look to Jesus, we can enjoy a better and more fulfilling life: John 10:10
- B. Thru death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there; Over us sin no more hath dominion- For more than conquerors we are!
1. Jesus died for us and rose from the dead and we follow that pattern in baptism: Romans 6:3-4
 2. Through baptism, we are freed from the bonds of sin and and life to righteousness: Romans 6:12-14
 3. Through walking in the light of Christ we are able to be more than conquerors: Romans 8:37
- C. His word will not fail you He promised, believe Him and all will be well. Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell.
1. The word of God will never fail: 1 Peter 1:25
 2. We must place our trust fully in the promises of God knowing that they will never fail:
 3. When we recognize the power of the word of God we want to share it with the lost and dying world around us so they can enjoy the salvation freely given: Colossians 1:27-29
- D. Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

Conclusion: Jesus serves as the very foundation upon which our faith is built. Without Jesus taking on flesh, offering Himself as the sacrifice for sin, and rising from the dead in victory, our faith would be futile and we would still be dead in sin. Let us be grateful for all that Jesus has done for us and look unto Him for His guidance in our lives so we can follow His example. May we seek to imitate Christ in all we do.