



Jesus Shows Us The Way

A Unique Life

The life of Jesus was amazing! He was born into the family of a carpenter and

builder who lived in the north of the land of Israel – a little town called Nazareth. People didn't think much of Nazareth; they said:

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46).

Jesus must have followed Joseph into the family business because the neighbours also called Jesus 'the carpenter'. To their astonishment, when he was about thirty years of age, he left that job and began to teach publicly in a way that was fresh and full of authority. And he went about doing marvellous things and showing remarkable acts of kindness. Just think of their reaction when one Sabbath he returned home and went to the local synagogue:

Many hearing him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to him, that such mighty works are performed by his hands! Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" So they were offended at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house" (Mark 6:2-4).

Jesus died when he was only about thirty-three years old, and only three of those years were lived in public. He never built a monument, led an army, wrote a book or left any written record and yet he has made a bigger impression on the world than any other person in history.

Many of the things done in his name (like the so-called 'Christian Crusades' in the Middle Ages) are disgraceful and are totally against the teaching of Jesus himself. Even today more people claim to be Christians than to be followers of any other religion. Islam also, although it is a different religion, accepts Jesus as a prophet of God. Indeed, the Quran accepts that Jesus brought dead people to life again (Sura 3:50; 5:110) and it records that God "lifted him up to Himself" (Sura 3:51-58; 4:158). So for Muslims also, Jesus is unique.

Perfect Life

The Bible goes further even than this. It tells us that Jesus lived a perfect life – the only human ever to do so. As a child we read that,

"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

In his adult life, we are told that he was: *"in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).*

[Image: Flickr user Hans Splinter]

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#May We Eat

On Sunday 10th May Ormskirk Christadelphians took part in a global event to help those less fortunate. The #MayWeEat campaign began in May 2014. It's run by the Meal-a-Day charity and is a whole month focused on raising funds to help those who are really in need.

Last year it raised over £20,000. Every day Meal-a-Day helps feed over 2,500 children. They have over 40 projects spread across 12 countries in Africa, which provide food, water, shelter and clothes for many.

In Ormskirk we replaced our normal bring and share Sunday lunch with a traditional Kenyan meal. We are twinned with Christadelphians in Luyya in Kenya. Chris and Annie Abson have visited them over the years and helped at the Nalondo School for Physically Handicapped Children. We have regular collections to help a feeding programme taking place there.

In traditional Kenyan style, we had our hands washed by two of our members (Annie & Rachel) and were then served our meal.



The usual fare of stews, curries, lasagne and chilli was replaced with plain boiled rice, beans and lentils. This is the meal that the children would normally have as part of the feeding programme.

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#May We Eat (continued)

For dessert the cakes and ice cream were replaced by pineapple, bananas and Mandazis, a sort of deep fried donut, but without the jam in the centre and not covered in sugar!

We gave the money that we would normally spend on our lunch to the appeal. We can forget how blessed we are in this country. Even the poorest of us do not suffer the way some do overseas, so this was an opportunity put into practice the instructions of Jesus:

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me... whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me.'
Matt 25



Jesus Show us the Way (continued)

Throughout his public life Jesus was spied on by powerful men who hated him for the way he exposed their hypocrisy and selfishness. They tried all ways to catch him out and to trip him up. They were every bit as persistent as our present day investigative journalists.

Jesus was never caught doing or saying anything wrong. After they had watched him for a couple of years, Jesus challenged them:

"Which of you convicts me of sin?" (John 8:46).

No-one answered, for nobody could. Jesus is still unique because, although his enemies killed him, he was raised to eternal life by the power of God and is alive today, guiding and directing the angels to bring about the circumstances that will lead to his return to establish God's kingdom on earth.



Alive for Ever

About six weeks after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the apostle Peter accused his fellow-countrymen in Jerusalem of having:

"... denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses (Acts 3:14-15).

But it was not just an accusation, for he continued with this offer:

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before" (Acts 3:19-20).

The response of the crowd was amazing for many who heard Peter's words believed the offer of salvation and



about 5000 men were baptised, there and then (Acts 4:4).

The Good News Spreads

Most of those new Christians were Jews, and as the apostles travelled further into the Roman Empire with the good news about Jesus they usually preached first in the synagogues. Before long, however, Gentiles (non-Jews) were given the opportunity to accept Jesus as their saviour sent by God, on the same terms, and they were often more responsive.

When some Jews in Central Turkey were not interested, the apostles announced:

"behold, we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46).

In this way the gospel spread and now we have the same opportunity – whether we live in the Middle East, Europe, or anywhere else in the world.



August:
9th
16th
23rd
30th

Miracles of Jesus:
Healing the Sick
Calming the Storm
Genesis – A book Jesus believed
Withers the Fig Tree

Sunday Bible Talks
- Every Sunday at 1:45pm

September:
6th
13th
20th
27th

Jesus Said:
"I am the way, the truth and the life"
"Come to me all ye that labour"
"Follow me"
"I am the good shepherd"

October
4th
11th
18th
25th

Parables of Jesus:
Loss and Redemption
Love and Forgiveness
Prayer
The Good Samaritan

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