

JESUS, THE PERFECT MAN

Don't forget about our radio program. The broadcast is every Sunday morning from 8:00-8:45 on the HUM. The station can be found at 98.5 in Columbus and 98.3 in Seymour.

The Outline is Online

Don't forget that the outline is also available online. Download a copy now.

Blog

We will pick the blog up next week along with a congregational reading schedule that the elders will elaborate on next Sunday evening.

There is no other character in history like that of Jesus.

As a preacher, as a doer of things, and as a philosopher, no man ever had the sweep and the vision of Jesus.

A human analysis of the human actions of Jesus brings to view a rule of life that is amazing in its perfect detail.

The system of ethics Jesus taught during His Earthly sojourn 2,000 years ago was true then, has been true in every century since and will be true forever.

Plato was a great thinker and learned in his age, but his teachings did not stand the test of time. In big things and in little things time and human experience have shown that he erred.

Marcus Aurelius touched the reflective mind of the world, but he was as cold and austere as brown marble. ...

Thomas a Kempis's Imitation of Christ is a thing of rare beauty and sympathy, but it is, as its name indicates, only an imitation.

Sir Thomas More's Utopia is yet a dream that cannot be realized.

Lord Bacon writing on chemistry and medicine under the glasses of the man working in a 20th Century laboratory is puerile.

The world's most learned doctors until 150 years ago gave dragon's blood and ground tails of lizards and shells of eggs for certain ailments. The great surgeons a hundred years ago bled a man if he were wounded.

Napoleon had the world at his feet for four years, and when he died the world was going on its way as if he had never lived.

JESUS TAUGHT little as to

property because He knew there were things of more importance than property. He measured property and life, the body and soul, at their exact relative value. He taught much more as to character, because character is of more importance than dollars.

Other men taught us to develop systems of government. Jesus taught so as to perfect the minds of men. Jesus looked to the soul, while other men dwelled on material things.

After the experience of 2,000 years no man can find a flaw in the governmental system outlined by Jesus.

Czar and kaiser, president and Socialist, give to its complete merit their admiration.

No man today, no matter whether he follows the doctrine of Mill, Marx or George as to property, can find a false principle in Jesus's theory of property.

In the duty of a man to his fellow no sociologist has ever approximated the perfection of the doctrine laid down by Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount.

Not all the investigations of chemists, not all the discoveries of explorers, not all the experiences of rulers, not all the historical facts that go to make up the sum of human knowledge on this day in 1912 are in contradiction to one word uttered or one principle laid down by Jesus.

The human experiences of 2,000 years show that Jesus never made a mistake. Jesus

never uttered a doctrine that was true at that time and then became obsolete.

Jesus spoke the truth, and the truth is eternal.

History has no record of any other man leading a perfect life or doing everything in logical order. Jesus is the only person whose every action and whose every utterance strike a true note in the heart and mind of every man born of woman. He never said a foolish thing, never did a foolish act and never dissembled.

No poet, no dreamer, no philosopher loved humanity with all the love that Jesus bore toward all men.

WHO, THEN, was Jesus?

He could not have been merely a man, for there never was a man who had two consecutive thoughts absolute in truthful perfection.

Jesus must have been what Christendom proclaims Him to be -- a divine being -- or He could not have been what He was. No mind but an infinite mind could have left behind those things which Jesus gave the world as a heritage.

This was written over 100 years ago by C.P.J. Mooney. He was the editor of The Commercial Appeal. This goes along with our point this morning that Jesus was a man of consequence.

Puerile means childish

DG

Who is Jesus?

A Man of Consequence and Controversy

Points to Consider

1. Jesus was a **Real Man** in Human History.
2. Jesus was a Man of **Significant Consequence** in Human History.
3. Jesus was a **Man of Controversy**.

Jesus Was a Real Man

A "mythicist" is one who believes that Jesus was not a _____ historical man. They think Jesus is a mythical character along the same lines as Zeus. The mythicist view _____ in the mid 1700's and persists today. The first evidence that this view is false is that it took _____ 1700 years for people to start doubting the historical reality of Jesus.

Luke 1:1-4 *Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.*

Luke claimed to be writing a historically _____ account of Jesus' life. He talked to _____. _____ others set out to write a history of Jesus' life. He wanted people to be able to know for _____ that Jesus was real and that the events he records really happened.

Matt 13:53-57 *Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there. 54 When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?" 57 So they were offended at Him. NKJV*

The people of Jesus' day not only recognized Him as real but also knew He had a real _____.

Historians that recognized Jesus' existence:

Josephus wrote, "Now, there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, -- a teacher of such men as receive the truth with

pleasure... and when _____, at the suggestion of the principal man amongst us, had condemned him to the cross..." Antiquities XVIII, iii

Tacitus wrote, "Nero fastened the guilt ... on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. _____, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of ... Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome...." Tacitus, Annals 15.44

A Man of Significant Consequence

Luke recognized Christ and the events surrounding His life as being the fulfillment of prophecy (Luke 1:1)

Acts 17:5-7 *But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."*

In the first century the early Christians had turned the world _____ with the teaching of Christ.

Col 1:23 *...if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

Christ was preached to _____ creature under heaven.

"Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western Culture for almost 20 centuries. If it were possible, with some sort of super magnet, to pull up out of history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of his name, how much would be left?" Yale historian Jeroslav Pelikan

The United States Constitution ends thus, "...done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names"

The signers of the constitution recognized time with the phrase "in the year of our _____."

One of the driving forces to establish a system of public education in America was the desire to ensure all people could read the bible. One bill that was passed in Massachusetts was called The Old Deluder Act.

Many universities started as religious schools.

Many hospitals were started by churches.

A Man of Controversy

Matt 8:26-27 *But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"*

His _____ disciples wondered who He was after he calmed the sea.

Matt 16:13-16 *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

The belief that Jesus was _____ a prophet is still prevalent today.

John 9:13-16 *They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."*

Jesus caused division and confusion among the Pharisees.
Some thought he was from God and others thought He was a sinner.

John 9:22-23 *His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.*

Some thought He was the _____. Others threatened people who confessed him to be the Christ.

John 9:24 *So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner."*

The Pharisees said He was a _____.

John 9:27-29 *He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."*

The Pharisees didn't know where "this fellow" was from.

John 9:31-34 *Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. 32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. 33 If this Man were not from God, He*

could do nothing." 34 They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

The man Jesus healed reasoned that Jesus could not be a sinner since God performed this _____ through Him.

John 9:35-38 *Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" 36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." 38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.*

The healed man finally concluded that Jesus was the Son of God.

John 10:22-24 *Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. 24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."*

Matt 26:63 *But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*

Shortly before His death His accusers were _____ trying to figure out who He was.

Nothing has changed. People are still trying to decide who Jesus was/is and why He is so important.

People's view range from believing that Jesus is a mythical character to believing that He is God's son.

Today we concluded that Jesus was a real man, He was an important man and He was a man of controversy.