

The Matchlessness of Christ

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Introduction

Mk.4:39-41, “39 Then He arose (Jesus had been asleep in the stern of boat on a pillow) and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” 41 *And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “**Who can this be**, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”*”

Mt.21:9-10, “9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!” 10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “**Who is this?**”

“How do we know that Jesus was who He claimed to be?”

1. CHRIST IS MATCHLESS IN HIS MAGNETISM

Jn.12:28-33, “28 Father glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” 29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.” 30 Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up

from the earth, **will draw all peoples to Myself.**” 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.”

Rev.5:9, “And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation”

2. CHRIST IS MATCHLESS IN HIS TEACHING

Mt.7:28, “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were **astonished at His teaching**”

Mt.13:54–56, “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?**”

Mt.11:28, is “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

3. CHRIST IS MATCHLESS IN HIS CLAIMS

Jn.4:25-26, “25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “**I who speak to you am He.**”

1 Cor. 5:7, “...For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”

4. CHRIST IS MATCHLESS IN HIS RESURRECTION

Acts 1:1-3, “1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom **He also presented Himself alive** after His suffering by many

infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”

Jesus **STAKED His entire reputation** on the proposition that He would rise again.

He predicted it at the *beginning*, in the *middle*, and at the *end* of His ministry.

- **Beginning - Jn.2:19**: “Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- **Middle - Matt.12:40**: “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
- **End - Matt.17:22-23**: “22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.” And they were exceedingly sorrowful.”

5. CHRIST IS MATCHLESS IN HIS INFLUENCE ON HISTORY.

Clarence Benson, a pioneer educator who taught at Moody Bible Institute (1923-1941) wrote:

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“I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on earth as has that One Solitary Life.”
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Philip Schaff, church historian writes,

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“This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Muhammad, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on matters human and divine than all the

philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussion, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.”

The British scholar C. S. Lewis came to Christ almost against his will, being convinced only by the evidence that Christianity was true. Lewis later explained,

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, or else he would be the Devil of Hell. 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 for a fool, you can spit at 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 patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Either He was an imposter—in which case you have to explain how He could also have been the greatest spiritual leader and the most selfless, atoning sacrifice the world has ever known; or He was a lunatic—in which case you have to explain how He could have been the wisest teacher the world has ever seen; or He is the God-Man—which is just who He claimed to be. Liar, Lunatic, or Lord. Which is He to you?”

Well, let me pose that question to you...

“Just what is Christ to you?” ...Liar, Lunatic, or Lord.

An early church father named Gregory of Nazianzus who lived around a.d.381 wrote these words.

He began His ministry by being hungry,
Yet He is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being thirsty,
Yet He is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary,
Yet He is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute,
Yet He is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon,
Yet He cast out demons.

Jesus wept,
Yet He wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver,
Yet He redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
Yet He is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died,
Yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.
