WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS JESUS OF THE BIBLE?

I understand having misunderstanding or incorrect assumptions about Jesus.  I fit that category years ago.

Those misunderstandings or poor assumptions are often based on gossip, inaccurate information, weird and erring preachers, outright lies, uneducated ideas, snide comments, or by believing ill made comments by parents, friends, stars or professors that we accept without researching to see if they are true or accurate.

So I want to encourage one and all to think about this man Jesus we are told about in the writings of the Bible.

I’m not going to talk here about all the miracles he did.  Those who wrote about his life record that he did many more than we even have record of.  And these miracles help add evidence to his being who he claimed to be. John 20:30, 31

I’m not going into the 300+ prophecies that he fulfilled which serve as another testimony that he was who he claimed to be; The Messiah, or God in the flesh.  The most recent of those prophesies were written about 700 years before he lived. It is an amazing source of evidence to proving he was who he claimed to be.

To learn more about those two items and more I recommend reading “More Than A Carpenter” by Josh McDowell.  You can order it on Amazon.  He has sold millions of these books and is said to have spoken to more university students around the world than anyone else.   He used to be an atheist.  He tried to destroy people’s faith in Jesus.  Not now.  While on a global venture to disprove Christianity, he found out there was more than enough information to make an intelligent decision about Jesus and turned from being a ‘destroyer’ of others faith to becoming a Disciple himself of Jesus.

**In this writing I want to write about that fact that Jesus was a man of Character, one to be admired. He was much more that a man of character but this can’t be overlooked. And there is a good reason why he was a man of character.**

While people often look at the imperfect followers of Jesus and thus erringly reject him, others shortcomings, errors and hypocrisies don’t change the reality of who Jesus was and offers us.

While I understand that some don't accept Jesus as God in the flesh (which He claimed to be) who came to rescue us from our desperate predicament here on earth, it says a lot about someone who doesn't even like the kind of life he lived and modeled.

Maybe someone doesn't know enough about him to make a good judgment, but look at the following list that shows some of the obvious good things about his life.  He was not an ordinary man.

These are some of the things that characterized his life. To not be FOR these things seems to suggest you would prefer being and living with people characterized by the words in the list following the descriptions of Jesus, or the opposite of what Jesus was like.

If you want to verify the list of what He was like, get a Bible or a copy of the New Testament of the Bible and read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.  These were four short histories written by people who lived with Jesus and they attest to the fact that Jesus was:

a man of truth

a teacher of truth

honest

loving

compassionate

a peace maker

a healer

gave comfort to people

gave hope to people

gave to people

sacrificed for people

was loyal to God

self controlled

unselfish

generous

encouraged people

wise beyond all others

spoke with confidence and authority

gave value to people

not a user of people for his own self interest

did good to people

was not violent

fought for justice, was fair

was understanding

was patient

was firm, confident, not wishy washy

was for the people

was forgiving

was not a 'people' pleaser

he didn't say things just to be popular

was not controlled by fear

was willing to suffer to carry out his cause for people

was not controlled by lust, anger, greed

lived very simply; not materialistic

willing to die for what he believed in

treated women, children and the sick with respect and compassion

humble

was faithful to his word and mission

stood up to temptation

stood up to injustice

did what was right

was fair

expected the best from people

was a protector of the weak and vulnerable

not a manipulator

was direct with people

was courageous

was against all forms of evil

man of integrity, uprightness

sought to obey and follow God.

gave people second chances

didn’t come to condemn people

So if you don’t like that kind of person it seems that you would prefer someone who is:

**(The opposite would be a person who is):**

a deceiver, liar

teacher of untruths

dishonest, not to be trusted

unloving, unkind, mean,

cold, unsympathetic

causer of damage, hurt

causes discomfort, pain

taker, selfish, user,

un-loyal, unfaithful

disobedient

no self control, out of control

selfish

stingy

discourager

not wise, foolish

unsure, goes with flow, changes things

thinks little of others; uses them

fighter, violent, mean

unjust, unfair

not understanding, unsympathetic

impatient (which is selfishness)

blows with the winds to be popular

is for himself; seeks own best interest

holds grudges

says what will profit or benefit himself.

lives in fear

loves to create fear in others

not willing to suffer for anyone

lives for lust, greed, anger, selfishness

lives for stuff, things

uses people to get what he wants

uses or exploits women, children for self interests

proud, and arrogant

faithful to SELF

word is unreliable

easily gives in to temptation; weak

does what is self serving

wants best from others to advance his interests

uses, manipulates, threatens

coward

against all that doesn't serve his personal pleasure and goals

creates his own definition of what is moral, upright

obeys himself

vengeful, gets even, mean spirited,

you blow it once and it’s over with him

blaming, condemning

O.K.

More could be said, BUT here is the point.

You may not believe that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior (and I would encourage you to take a new look at that if that is the case) but it would be hard to argue that he was anything other than a unique and exceptional man; one of a kind.

His life and character is a model for anyone, to be admired, respected, copied etc. unless you don't believe in

Justice

fairness

humbleness

honesty

directness

truthfulness

self control

respecting others

courage

integrity

uprightness

good morals

obedient

compassionate

understanding

forgiving
being loving

forgiving

faithfulness

encouraging to do the right

wisdom

living and teaching truth

giving value to people

not using people

being patient with people

respecting women, children, ill, down and out

living a simple life; free from greed

and it goes on and on.

To learn more about Jesus and the life he lived, I encourage you to get a Bible and read in the New Testament where it tells the most about him.  4 different men wrote short biographies about what they witnessed being with him.   I mentioned these earlier.

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Josh McDowell in his book More Than A Carpenter has a chapter titled, “Lord, Liar or Lunatic.”

Here is the idea.  Either Jesus was a LIAR and all he did and said can be rejected because he claimed to be God in the flesh but he wasn’t and he knew it.  Then he was a big LIAR and not to be trusted about much of anything. If he was a liar then he certainly doesn’t deserve our believing in him and following him at all. A liar or deceiver isn’t a man of character.

OR, he was a Lunatic.  He really believed he was God but wasn’t.  Many have come saying that. If that is the case we can ignore him and his showing up on the timeline of history. If that is the case he certainly doesn’t deserve our believing in him and following him either.

OR he was Lord, he was the Messiah, he was God who came in the flesh, as a human being to save us, to rescue us from the mess we have created here in human history and his life of character was just ONE of the many evidences that he was God in the flesh, He was the most unique man in the history of the world, and there are many evidence to prove that and give us confidence in believing in him and following him in our life.

If you want to know more about what it means to be a Christian or follower of Christ, go to

ScottFreeClinic.org

and download the “It’s All About Relationship”  and then watch the four video presentations.