

Have You Seen Jesus?

Introduction. John 12:20-21 says, "And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus."

Luke tells us of two men who saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead. Although they saw Him with their physical eyes they did not recognize Him at first. In fact, they did not recognize Him until after Jesus expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself and had given thanks for the bread that He gave them (Luke 24:31).

No one today can see Him with the physical eyes, but what about the "eye of faith" (John 20:29)? Have you seen Jesus this way? We have no idea what Jesus looked like physically. However the picture of Jesus spiritually is a different matter. We can and we must see Jesus with the eye of faith and sustain a living relationship with Him day by day (Colossians 2:6-10).

I. ***Jesus Was A Man Of Prophecy***

- A. The function of a prophet was to be a mouthpiece of God speaking to man. Therefore, the prophet revealed to man the word of God, which may be a statement and explanation of that which was past, is present or will come in the future.
- B. Jesus was prophesied of over 300 times in the Old Testament. Isaiah, for example, prophesied about 750 B.C. All of those prophecies are fulfilled in the New Testament.
 1. Christ would be rejected by the Jews (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:11).
 2. Christ would suffer vicariously for our sins (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17).
 3. Christ would be silent as He was accused (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:62-63).
 4. Christ would be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60).
 5. Christ would crucified with sinners (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38).
- C. Jesus fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah without exception and without contradiction (Luke 24:44).
- D. Truly, "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:20-21), proving the Bible is indeed the word of God and Jesus is the Son of God.
- E. But Jesus was also a prophet Himself.
 1. He was the world's final spokesman (Hebrews 1:1-2).
 2. He prophesied of His own death and resurrection (Matthew 12:39-40).

3. He prophesied of Jerusalem's destruction (Matthew 23:37-39; 24:1-51).
 4. He prophesied of His return (Matthew 25:31-46).
- F. What was written in both testaments was written to produce faith in God and in His promises (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

II. ***Jesus Was A Man Of Purpose***

- A. The definition of "purpose" is, "a result which is desired to obtain and which is kept in mind in performing an action."
- B. Jesus had several purposes while He lived on earth.
1. His primary purpose was "to do the will of him that sent me" (John 4:34). He did not come to accomplish His own purposes, but to accomplish God's will.
 2. He came to give abundant life (John 10:10-11). He came to satisfy man's innermost longings. He came to satisfy the desires of a heart devoid of God (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
 3. He came to "seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He did not come to spread confusion or error, nor to teach people that they can please God by minimal service.
 4. He came to divide for the sake of the gospel (Matthew 10:34-38). Jesus knew that seeking to save the lost would necessarily set one person against another. But He never held back because He knew that some people would obey the pure truth.

III. ***Jesus Was A Man Of Power***

- A. There are two words that are predominantly used for "power." The first word is *dunamis* which means "ability or strength." The second word is *exousia* which means "privilege or authority."
1. Jesus had the power (*dunamis*) to work abundant and unending miracles (Luke 5:17; 6:9) and promised that He would sit at the right hand of the power of God (Luke 22:69).
 2. Jesus had the power (*exousia*) to forgive sins (Mark 2:10) and to give eternal life (John 17:2). He also taught as one who had authority (Matthew 7:29) and claimed to have had all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).
- B. This "power" that Jesus had indeed proved Him to be the Son of God. Not only did He come to this earth with the strength or might, but also with the authority to bring about God's will on the earth.

IV. ***Jesus Was A Man Of Promise***

- A. Jesus promised to make salvation possible for mankind by the establishment of the relationship we know as His church or kingdom.

The price He paid for it was His precious blood (Matthew 16:13-19; John 10:14-30; 12:26-43; Acts 20:28).

- B. Paul adds to our understanding of this great promise which is realized "in Christ" and in His church (Ephesians 2:13-16; 3:6; 4:1-6; 5:22-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- C. Jesus also made several other promises.
 - 1. He promised to always abide with His disciples (Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:23).
 - 2. He promised to answer prayer (Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 18:1-8).
 - 3. He promised to recompense men for their deeds (Matthew 16:27; John 5:22-23).
- D. In Hebrews 6:17-18, God has promised and given us His oath that justification, achieved through persistent faith and obedience in Christ, will be rewarded with a heavenly home. This promise gives us hope and Jesus is the anchor of that hope and promise.

V. ***Jesus Was A Man Of Perfection***

- A. "Perfection" means "the act of being complete or correct in every way, conforming to a standard with no omissions, errors, flaws or extraneous elements." Jesus was the only person who ever lived on this earth to fit that description.
- B. Jesus was perfect or complete in many ways.
 - 1. He was perfect in His obedience (John 8:29).
 - 2. He was perfect in His morality (1 Peter 1:18-20; Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - 3. He was perfect in His patience (1 Timothy 1:16).
 - 4. He was perfect in His priesthood (Hebrews 7:26-28).
 - 5. He was perfected through His sufferings (Hebrews 2:10; 5:8-9).
- C. Jesus, being our perfect role model, is our pattern for faithfulness to the Father (1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1).

VI. ***Jesus Was A Man Of Preeminence***

- A. The word "preeminent" is used in the scriptures as a metaphor to describe one who occupies the rank and privilege of being firstborn (Colossians 1:18). There is no reference here to time, but to one who has priority over all creation and sovereignty over all creation. Christ has absolute preexistence and preeminence over all of this; He has the most exalted rank in the universe.
- B. His followers recognized and respected His preeminence by accepting His authority in all religious matters (Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 28:18; Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11). We must too!

C. Men cannot respect the preeminence nor the authority of Jesus Christ when they:

1. Wear names other than His (Acts 11:26; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13).
2. Worship in a way other than described by Him (John 4:24).
3. Teach doctrine that is contrived by men (Matthew 15:8-9).
4. Build churches that are not His (Matthew 16:18).

Conclusion. It is a major tragedy that so few in our time "see Jesus" as He is pictured in God's word. Many see Him through the false teachings of man-made religions. The Bible pictures Him as the word who is God and was in the beginning with God as well as being the one through whom God made the world (John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-2). Even some brethren see Him as nothing but "an ordinary man like you and me." What blasphemy!

May God help us to "see Jesus" through the "eye of faith" for who and what He really is in the Bible. Have you truly seen Jesus? Is Jesus enthroned in your heart and life? If not, will you not submit to Him even now as we stand and sing a song designed to tug at your heartstrings so you will surrender to Him as your Lord and be obedient to His gospel?