

# What's So Different About Jesus?

John 6:66-69; 9:17,24-25,31-33,35-38; 20:27-29

Jesus is not like the leaders or founders of other world religions. Jesus is unique as evidenced in His teachings – His miracles, and His resurrection

Jesus has exerted influence though out history, but He is different from any other leader. This lesson will show Jesus is truly unique.

Personal View – The story of John 6 has always been one of my favorite in all the bible. I don't know why but Peter seems to speak for me also when I have doubts and fears. Jesus is the only hope I have.

## **CONSIDER JESUS' TEACHING (John 6:66-69)**

Our Lord's teaching was not hard to understand but hard to accept once you understood it. The Jewish religious leaders both misunderstood His words and rejected them. They were "offended" by what He taught. They stumbled over the fact that He claimed to come down from heaven.

The result of this message was the loss of most of our Lord's disciples. They went back to the old life, the old religion, and the old hopeless situation.

When Jesus asked His twelve apostles if they planned to desert Him too, it was Peter who spoke up and declared their faith. Where else could they go? "Thou hast the words of eternal life." Peter got the message!

Peter was sure that *all* of the apostles were believers, which shows how convincing Judas was. Even Peter did not know that Judas was an unbeliever! The preaching of the Word of God always leads to a sifting of the hearts of the listeners. God draws sinners to the Savior through the power of truth, His Word. Those who reject the Word will reject the Savior. Those who receive the Word will receive the Savior and experience the new birth, eternal life.

## APPLICATION :

Some people want a religion that they can control for their own advantage.

Jesus Christ is the only one to have the words of eternal life.

Jesus' great claims are justified – He is the Son of the living God

## **CONSIDER JESUS' MIRACLES (John 9:17,24-25,31-33,35-38)**

Lord performed miracles in order to meet human needs. But He also used those miracles as a "launching pad" for a message conveying spiritual truth. Finally, His miracles were His "credentials" to prove that He was indeed the Messiah. "The blind receive their sight" was one such messianic miracle.

Since the Pharisees were the custodians of the faith, it was right that the healed man be brought to them for investigation. The fact that they studied this miracle in such detail is only further proof that Jesus did indeed heal the man. Since the man was *born* blind, the miracle was even greater, for blindness caused by sickness or injury might suddenly go away.

Our Lord's miracles can bear careful scrutiny by His enemies.

Once again, Jesus was the cause of division. The religious leaders were judging on the basis of one thing: nobody who breaks the Sabbath could possibly be a true prophet of God.

They were "one-issue" thinkers, not unlike some religious people today. The Pharisees did not realize that Jesus was offering the people something greater than the Sabbath—the true spiritual rest that comes from God.

The Good Shepherd always cares for His sheep. Jesus knew that the man had been excommunicated, so He found him and revealed Himself to him. Remember, the man knew our Lord's voice, but he had never seen His face. The man now reached the climax of his knowledge of Jesus Christ and his faith in Him. It is not enough to believe that He is "a man called Jesus," or even "a prophet" or "a man of God." "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (1 John 5:1). John wrote his gospel to prove that Jesus is the Son of God, and to present to his readers the testimonies of people who met Jesus and affirmed that He is God's Son. This beggar is one such witness.

#### APPLICATION:

Those who reject the light sink deeper into darkness.

Once we all were blind, but now those of us who believe have been given sight.

Jesus' miracles support the claims He made about His nature and mission.

#### **CONSIDER JESUS' RESURRECTION (John 20:27-29).**

The news that Jesus was alive began to spread among His followers, at first with hesitation, but then with enthusiasm. Even His disciples did not believe the first reports, and Thomas demanded proof. But wherever people were confronted with the reality of His resurrection, their lives were transformed. In fact, that same transforming experience can be yours today.

Why was Thomas not with the other disciples when they met on the evening of resurrection day? Was he so disappointed that he did not want to be with his friends? But when we are discouraged and defeated, we need our friends all the more! Solitude only feeds discouragement and helps it grow into self-pity, which is even worse.

Perhaps Thomas was afraid. But John 11:16 seems to indicate that he was basically a courageous man, willing to go to Judea and die with the Lord! John 14:5 reveals that Thomas was a spiritually minded man who wanted to know the truth and was not ashamed to ask questions. There seems to have been a "pessimistic" outlook in Thomas. We call him "Doubting Thomas," but Jesus did not rebuke him for his doubts. He rebuked him for unbelief: "Be not faithless, but believing."

Doubt is often an intellectual problem: we want to believe, but the faith is overwhelmed by problems and questions.

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Thomas is a good warning to all of us not to miss meeting with God's people on the Lord's Day (Heb. 10:22–25). Because Thomas was not there, he missed seeing Jesus Christ, hearing His words of peace, and receiving His commission and gift of spiritual life. He had to endure a week of fear and unbelief when he could have been experiencing joy and peace!

Remember Thomas when you are tempted to stay home from church. You never know what special blessing you might miss! But let's give him credit for showing up the next week. The other ten men had told Thomas that they had seen the Lord's hands and side (John 20:20), so Thomas made that the test. Thomas had been there when Jesus raised Lazarus, so why should he question our Lord's own resurrection? But, he still wanted proof; "seeing is believing."

**APPLICATION:**

Our hope is built on faith and hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Listen to the testimony of dedicated people.