



Jesus

Hmmm... Jesus for dummies. How can I explain about Jesus in under 1000 words? Good luck with that. Yet, this Bible study is designed to be a 5-minute read or less. I'll take a stab at the shorter version about Jesus. Some people are enamored with the Old Testament. It's the original Bible so it's all that they will read. Other people are just New Testament dudes. It's all they read. In university I met both. Yet, time after time the topic of Jesus came up. Some quoted the Old and some quoted the New Testaments.

Hey, isn't Jesus only found in the New Testament? That is the age-old question in religious circles. Where does Jesus fit? It's the where's Waldo in religion. Jesus appears in the four gospel accounts in the New Testament and within the first chapter of the book of acts. That's it or is it? In regards to the Old Testament it goes like this. If you read about a wanted man, it gives a description of him on a bulletin. Sometimes we recognize that person in other places. That's how they get caught. It's the same with Jesus. We read about him in the New Testament, yet we see him within the Old books.

What is the flavor of God? Is he love, patience, powerful and wise? We see that played out in the Old Testament. Then in comes Jesus. He claims to be the Son of God. In many ways he displayed those character traits to a tee. He loved, did miracles, and displayed his mighty

power in calming the seas and raising the dead. John 14:7 *“If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

Yet, Jesus is just a myth or figure found in a book, right? How could we know that he really existed? I tend to come back to Paul in the Bible. Several well-respected historians wrote that Paul existed. Within the writing of Paul is a recognition that Jesus was who he claimed to be. I tend to go further than that. Ask yourself this. If Jesus was just a man then why all the hype for over 2000 years. Isn't that a very long time to be popular? How could churches, ministries, and believers still exist for such a long time if it were fake news? How could so many people reorganize their lives and sacrifice themselves in death for fake news? It is either very real or one hell of a dilution.

What makes this Jesus real then? Most people say that believers are under a cult or they are weak minded. So, over a billion believers are weak minded, and spread out over 2000 years? I happened to believe in Jesus all by myself while listening to a tape in a basement. It hit me like a ton of bricks. I then began to investigate this Jesus and his claims. His teachings and stories touched my heart. I changed so rapidly. Something or someone was infecting me. It's like I was confronted (or met) this Jesus.

Yes, Jesus died on a cross. It's how the Romans put people to death by crucifixion. The Old Testament tells of a promised messiah or savior. This person was to be in the line of Abraham and King David in the Jewish ancestry. It seems impossible that Jesus could come from such an ancient line. Such a twisted lineage composed of kings and prostitutes. In the Bible? He was prophesied and promised. This Jewish tradition makes up our present-day Jesus.

I am not a Jew. However, I follow a Jewish God. This God says he is love. He claims to save us from death if we believe. Jesus is so much more than a dilution. Once you say you believe then nothing is the same. Life is different. You want to love more and care more. Death is different, fear is not an option. The Bible looks different. I can't explain it but believing and knowing the truth about the Bible becomes clear. Jesus is far more than just a name or man. He changes people.

They say that Jesus rose from the dead. God displayed his dominion over death. To know Jesus is to know that death has no claim on us. To know Jesus is to know that others matter more than us. We are born to make this world a better place. It's impossible to describe Jesus accurately. Instead, you need to ask the right questions. To ask Jesus in to your heart is to ask him to prove he exists. You will never be able to understand who Jesus is until your willing to listen. Willing to know. The direct reason Jesus still exists today is because people know. They have met the risen Christ in their lives.

To reduce Jesus to teacher is unfair. To reduce Jesus to miracle worker is unfair. To say he was just a good man is not nice. If I told people that never met you who you are, what would I say? Aren't you many things? That is the real Jesus. He is the many sides to God's character. To know me is to spend time knowing me. The person of Jesus is only historical if you have never invited him in to your heart. I dare you to check out who Jesus is. He will explain himself if you'll listen.