

# Who is Jesus Christ?

Acts 4:12

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. What do the words “Jesus Christ” mean to you?
1. Today, the words “Jesus Christ” are most frequently used as swear words. People use them in order to vent their anger or frustration.
  2. To some people, the words “Jesus Christ” are an embarrassment. To mention His name at a party or at work is a sure conversation stopper. If you mention His name, people will accuse you of being a religious fanatic.
- B. Why does bringing up the word “Jesus” make so many people uncomfortable?
1. Had Jesus been a bad man, or had been a mass murderer or a Don Juan, then a negative reaction toward Him would be more easily understood.
  2. Friends, Jesus was nothing of the kind! He was the most dynamic, attractive, and genuinely good human being who has ever lived.
- C. Jesus’ impact upon the world is far greater than anyone else.
1. Historian Kenneth Scott Latourette said: “As the centuries pass, the evidence is accumulating that, measured by His effect on history, Jesus is the most influential life ever lived on this planet.”
  2. Ernest Renan said: “Jesus was the greatest religious genius that ever lived. His beauty is eternal, and His reign shall never end. Jesus is in every respect unique, and nothing can be compared with Him. All history is incomprehensible without Jesus Christ.”
  3. Jesus has not only made the biggest impact upon the world than anyone else; He can make the biggest impact upon your life as well.
  4. **Acts 4:12** - “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
  5. Truly, “There’s just something about that name.”

## WHO IS JESUS?

- A. Jesus Christ is the rescuer of all mankind.
1. **ILLUSTRATION:** One day a wealthy English family invited some friends over to spend some time at their beautiful estate. However, the happy gathering almost turned into a terrible tragedy on the first day. You see when the children went swimming, one of them got into the deep water and was drowning. But fortunately, the gardener heard the others screaming and plunged into the pool to rescue the helpless victim. That rescued youngster was Winston Churchill. His parents, deeply grateful to the gardener, asked what they could do to reward him. He hesitated, then said, “I wish my son could go to college someday and become a doctor.” “We’ll pay his way,” replied Churchill’s parents.

Years later when Sir Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of England, he was stricken with pneumonia. Greatly concerned, the king summoned the best physician who could be found to the bedside of the ailing leader. That doctor was Sir Alexander Fleming, the developer of penicillin. He was also the son of that gardener who had saved Winston Churchill from drowning as a boy.

- My friends, at one time, we ourselves were drowning in our sins. We were dying of a serious illness called sin. But on one glorious day, Jesus rescued us from our sins.

2. **ILLUSTRATION:** In July of 1976, when, in a swift display of military precision, courage, and sheer daring, Israeli commandos rescued 102 Jewish hostages from Uganda, in Central Africa. Perhaps you may remember the events that made world news. They had been passengers on a plane that had been hijacked by a group of Palestinian terrorists and flown to a safe haven protected by the madman, dictator Idi Amin. The hostages were probably as good as dead if something could not be done to save them. Well, something was done.

To rescue the hostages, a raiding party from Israel was selected and honed to a strike force specially trained in air-assault operations. They were among the finest military men in the world, led by thirty-year-old Colonel Jonathan Netan-yahu, who had moved to Israel from the United States when he was only two.

Deep in the desert at the isolated military base, they practiced the raid again, and again, and again, having the group rescue time down to fifty-five minutes.

Once the team landed in Uganda, the cargo plane's huge tail ramp dropped out and out came a large black Mercedes Benz limousine, closely followed by two land rovers filled with Israeli commandos dressed in Palestinian uniforms. In the back of the limousine was a bulky Israeli officer dressed like dictator Idi Amin.

The license plate on the limousine was identical to that of Amin's official car. As the party drove up to the terminal building, the Ugandan guards snapped to attention, allowing the Israeli commandos to get within a few yards of the building before the first shots were fired.

Bullets were soon raining down on the airport like hail in a thunderstorm. Within ten to twenty minutes, the shooting was over. The commandos ordered the hostages to the planes that were waiting in a takeoff position, engines still running. As the hostages ran to the planes, great fireballs erupted in the distance as Israeli commandos blew up the eleven parked MIG jets that would have been scrambled to intercept the escaping Israeli planes. As the hostages and commandos rushed onto the huge Hercules,

the rear hatch slammed shut. Fifty-three minutes after the raid began, the planes began moving into position for takeoff. The hostages were saved.

The rescue, however, did not go letter perfect. Three hostages lost their lives and one Israeli commando lost his life—the assault-force commander, Colonel Jonathan Netan-yahu. A sniper in the control tower killed him with a bullet in the back. The colonel gave his life to save others.

• As great as this mission was, it pales in comparison to the greatest rescue in history—the saving of mankind by God. Mankind found itself lost in life, held hostage by evil, helpless and hopeless. Jesus risked Himself—even gave His life—to rescue mankind. His is the greatest of all acts.

2. If someone ever asks you, “Who is Jesus Christ?” tell them that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God who came to rescue mankind from their sins. Jesus Christ is the Great Rescuer!
  - a. **Galatians 2:4** - “Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.” Another translation says, “Jesus gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age.”
  - b. **Matthew 20:28** - “. . . The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

B. In the words of one of our songs, “Hallelujah, what a Savior.”

## WHAT MAKES JESUS SO GREAT AND SET APART FROM OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS?

### A. His teaching, and teachings, set Him apart from all other religious leaders.

1. No one in the history of the world has paralleled the quality, the power, and the authority of the teachings of Jesus.
  - a. Nobody has been able to show any evil contained within it.
  - b. Nobody has been able to show any good that is not contained with it.
  - c. Nobody has been able to equal it.
  - d. Nobody has been able to surpass it.
2. In Bible times, people were amazed with His teaching.
  - a. In **John 7:46**, the soldiers who had been sent to arrest Jesus said, “. . . No man ever spoke like this Man!”
  - b. Notice the reaction of the multitudes at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. **Matthew 7:28-29** -
 

“And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

3. Yes, in Bible times people were astonished and amazed at His teachings . . . and people are still amazed today.

**B. His life-style sets Him apart from other religious leaders.**

1. Jesus' teaching, the greatest ever given, was backed up by a flawless character.
  - a. In fact, our Lord's life-style was so flawless, that His disciples were convinced that He was without sin and moral flaw.
  - b. **1 Peter 2:22-25** - "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth";
 

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed.

25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."
  - c. **Hebrews 4:15** - "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."
2. Jesus practiced what He preached, and He preached what we should practice.
  - a. He not only taught people to love their enemies . . . He did it.
  - b. During the time of His crucifixion, Jesus said in **Luke 23:34** - ". . . Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do . . ."
  - c. He not only claimed that the highest thing a man could do for His friends was to lay down his life for them . . . He did it. **John 15:13** - "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
  - d. His pure life-style should motivate us to model our lives after Him.
    1. Young people, if you are looking for a role model,
      - Don't look to the movie or television industry.
      - Don't look to the music industry.
      - Don't look to the sports industry.

Look to Jesus Christ as the best role model you could possibly have.
    2. Charles Barkley, former Auburn basketball star and later an established NBA player, summed it up best when he said, "I am not your kids role model. Parents should be. Kids, you should model your lives after your parents and more importantly after Jesus.
3. **Jesus' miracles set Him apart from other religious leaders.**
  - a. Jesus recorded more miracles than the 35 or so we have recorded in the Bible. **John 20:30-31** - "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these

are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

- b. He did things like:
    1. Changing water into wine.
    2. Changing a storm into a calm.
    3. Changing death into life.
    4. Changing disease into health.
  - c. Why did Jesus heal people?
    - a. **He healed people in order to confirm His Word.** **Mark 16:20** - “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.”
    - b. **He healed out of compassion.** On one occasion a man with leprosy came to Jesus and knelt down on his knees and begged our Lord to make him clean. Let Mark tell it. **Mark 1:41** - “And Jesus, moved with compassion, put out His hand and touched him, and said to him, I am willing; be cleansed.”
      1. Have faith in the Lord to help you with your diseases, illnesses, disabilities.
      2. **Mark 11:22-24** - “So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God.  
 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, Be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.  
 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”
4. **His fulfillment of prophecy sets Him apart from other religious leaders.**
- a. Dr. Charles C. Ryrie has pointed out that, by the law of chance, it would require two hundred billion earths, populated with four billion people each, to come up with one person who could achieve one hundred accurate prophecies in sequence without errors.
  - b. But the Bible records not one hundred but over three hundred prophecies that Jesus fulfilled.
5. **His claims set Him apart from other religious leaders.**
- a. Jesus is different from other religious leaders such as Buddha, Mohammed, and Confucius, because Jesus claimed to be God and these other teachers did not.
  - b. Jesus’ claims were identifying Him as more than just a prophet or teacher . . . His made claims to deity.
    1. **John 10:30** - “I and My Father are one.”

2. **John 1:1** - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
3. **Romans 9:5** - “Of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”
4. **Titus 2:13** - “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

## CONCLUSION:

A. What makes Jesus so great and set apart from other religious leaders?

1. His teachings.
2. His life-style.
3. His miracles.
4. His fulfillment of prophecy.
5. His claims.

B. Earlier we said that Jesus is the great rescuer, and this very hour He can rescue you from your sins and give you eternal life.

1. He can rescue you from other things as well.
  - a. Your burdens.
  - b. Your illnesses.
  - c. Your depression.
  - d. Your anger.
  - e. Your sadness.

2. Whatever you are struggling with, He can help.

C. In **Matthew 11:28-30** Jesus is reaching out to you. “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

D. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**