

UNIQUENESS OF JESUS

"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" — Mark 4 :41.

He who was the marvel of the first century is also the marvel of the twentieth century. There was and is in Jesus of Nazareth some quality that widely separates him from humanity. At the same time he is so near to each individual as to have a personal interest in every soul. His close and constant association with the multitudes, his readiness to minister to the needs of all classes, prove him to be the friend of humanity.

Jesus stands alone in contrast with the great 'of earth. He is not only the wisest of the great and the greatest of the wise, but he taught the wise wisdom and the great greatness. He towers so high above all other men that it is easier to make him divine than human.

1. *He was unique as to his life's plan.* He had a definite purpose in life. He had a work to accomplish which no one else could do. That the purpose of God in his life might be fully carried out he did his work according to a definite plan. Few people plan the work of their lives. Fewer still are able to carry out their plans. Incidental and accidental things enter in to spoil the best of plans sometimes. Unforeseen and unexpected events compel us to change some plans and abandon others. 'Tis foolish for us to say, "To-day or tomorrow we will go into the city, and buy and sell and get gain."

But Jesus was ever calm and confident, and was about his Father's business. His face was ever toward Jerusalem. Nothing surprised him, nothing daunted him. His is the only life that met all that was expected of it — all it was designed for.

2. *He filled his own and every man's ideal of goodness.* Where is there a man who measures up to his own ideal? Every thinking man is conscious of his own imperfections. There is probably no living man who, if he could live his life over, would follow exactly the course he has already traveled. Each of us has frequent occasion to regret our mistakes and follies; likewise we have failed to find our ideal for life manifest in any other. We cover the defects in the lives of our friends with the mantle of charity, but we are all the time conscious of the fact that defects are there; yet we have more respect for the man who acknowledges his mistakes than for the one who claims perfection or absolute holiness.

In the life of Jesus, however, is no defect and no mistake and no inconsistency. He never had to say, "I repent." He measured up to the highest that the world demands. He set before the world its only perfect model. He had a perfect ideal, and he met it perfectly in every point.

3. *Jesus was unique as a religious teacher.* Born in poverty, surrounded with selfishness and bigotry, yet he taught the world its greatest lessons in humility, self-sacrifice, sympathy, charity and brotherliness. Through the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth

man lives better, enjoys more, dies happier; truth has new significance, life better objects, hope brighter prospects and death new revelations. In every region where his gospel is proclaimed, the wail of the mourner is less sad and hope is breathed for the dying and the dead. His empire is deepening and widening, and year by year his cause is winning new fame and glory.

While he never wrote but a single sentence, and wrote that in the sand, his words are recorded in the books of all civilized people on the earth. The greatest minds of the world are engaged in discussing his teachings and his life. There is nothing good or pure or holy which he has not uttered. You may search the lore and legends of the earth, and not one additional truth can be found that will make more complete the system of religion taught by him. Like men of old, we still exclaim, "Whence hath this man this knowledge!"

4. *Jesus was unique that he is the only mediator between God and man.* In him are combined perfect humanity and perfect divinity. With one hand he reaches up to the throne; with the other he reaches man's lowest estate. He stands in the midst of I the ages to proclaim, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me." "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." His invitation is for "whosoever will." What, then, will you do with Jesus?

— Author unknown