

1999

The Greatest Life Ever Lived: The Superiority of Jesus

Elmer L. Towns

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THE GREATEST LIFE EVER LIVED
The Superiority of Jesus

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By
Elmer Towns

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SECTION ONE

**Jesus
Was
Pre-eminently Superior**



SIMPLY JESUS

*Even though Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords
the events of His birth are defined by the word simplicity. His
birth was divine in its simplicity.*

*Even though He is the wisdom of God, and all knowledge resides in
Jesus, His teachings are defined by the word, simplicity. His
words were masterful in their simplicity.*

*Even though Jesus was the power of God and created all things, His
miracles are described by the word simplicity. They were
awesome in their simplicity.*

*Even though Jesus is the love of God and gave Himself for people, His
acts of kindness are defined by the word simplicity. They were
compassion in simplicity.*

*Even though Jesus confounded His questioners and answered His critics,
His logical reasons are defined by the word simplicity. They were
confounded by His simplicity.*

*Even though Jesus is the most awesome person to ever live, His great
influence is measured by His simplicity. Because there is
simplicity in greatness, He was simply great.*

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“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14



Jesus Was Pre-eminently Superior

JESUS WITHOUT EQUAL

We find Jesus attracting sinners and saints, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus comfortable among the poor and wealthy, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus ministering to the sick and healthy, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus talking with little children and grown adults, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus teaching common workers and learned scholars, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus answering questions of respectful disciples and bitter critics, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus talking with the outcast Samaritan woman and the outstanding Nicodemus, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus helping people at a happy marriage and a solemn grave, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus comfortable in small villages and metropolitan Jerusalem, because He was without equal.

We find Jesus feasting at Matthew's house and fasting in the wilderness, because He was without equal.

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**“This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the
Jews.”**

**Written in three languages
and hung on the cross**

**Matthew 27:37, Mark 15:26,
Luke 23:38, John 19:19**



Jesus Was Pre-eminently Superior

OBVIOUSLY . . . CHRIST

“Christ was a man and Christ was God . . . the evidence that he was each is abundant, and the necessity that He was each is obvious. Had Christ not been man, He could not have identified with us; had Christ not been God, He could not have saved us.

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“God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

**An Early Statement of
Faith In Churches
I Timothy 3:16**



Jesus Was Pre-eminently Superior

JESUS THE MAGNIFICENT INFLUENCE

Considering all the teachers of all the ages . . . Jesus has influenced far more people, to learn far more knowledge, about far more things; than any other instructor of the ages.

Considering all the writers of all the ages . . . Jesus has motivated far more literature, about far more areas of knowledge, to lift people far higher; than any other journalist of the ages.

Considering all the builders of all the ages . . . Jesus is responsible for far more construction, of far more different kinds of buildings, to help far more people, in far more different ways; than any other workman of the ages.

Considering all the social workers of all the ages . . . Jesus has caused far more people, to give far more help, to far more needy; than any other humanitarian of the ages.

Considering all the artists of all the ages . . . Jesus has breathed far more life, into far more paintings, sculptures and art works, and to uplift far more people, to far more higher levels of appreciation; than any other artist of the ages.

Considering all the politicians and rulers of all ages . . . Jesus is responsible for far more good, to far more subjects, in far more areas of their life; than any other leader of the ages.

Considering all the military personnel that have ever defended freedom, Jesus has motivated far more to fight for freedom, for far more people; than any one defender of the ages.

Considering all the individuals ever born, Jesus Christ is the Magnificent Influence of the Ages.

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**“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the
living God.”**

**What Peter said of Jesus
Matthew 16:16**



Jesus Was Pre-eminently Superior

JESUS FROM GOD

Of all the words spoken by Jesus, listeners know He is speaking as a man, while His message is from God..

Of all the ways Jesus related to people, they knew He was a man, while knowing He was from God.

Of all the people who saw Jesus, they thought of Him as a man, while realizing He was from God..

Of all the ways Jesus appeared to people, they accepted Him as a man, while understanding He was from God.

Of all the suffering Jesus endured on the cross, observers knew He was a man, while seeing He was from God..

Of all the sinners who constantly gathered around Jesus, they knew He was a man, while they accepted the fact He was from God..

Of all His weariness and limitations, His disciples knew He was a man, while perceiving He was from God.

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SECTION TWO

Jesus' Birth Was A Divine Occurrence



**“Behold, a virgin shall conceive,
and bear a son, and shall call his
name Immanuel.”**

Isaiah 7:14



Jesus' Birth Was A Divine Occurrence

A Perfect Birth Moment

If ever there was a perfect birth moment for a baby that could change the world, it was when Jesus was born.

It was a perfect world at peace, Rome had conquered all her foes, there was no threat, all governments submitted to Pax Rominia.

It was a perfect world of communication, everyone could talk to one another. Latin was the official language, Greek was the cultural language, Hebrew was the Jewish language, and Aramaic was the trade language. When Jesus was born, he could speak to them all.

It was a perfect world for travel. Roman roads reached everywhere, and they all led to Rome. Everyone was protected from invasion and the streets were safe from robbers.

It was a perfect world for commerce. Business thrived for Roman coins were accepted by all, and Roman laws created public trust because they were fair, and equitable to all.

It was a perfect world for civilization. The East had been subdued, yet poured her wealth into Rome. The North and the South were united around the Caesar who ruled the world.

There was perfect peace, perfect laws, perfect language, perfect travel and the world had never been better prepared, thus in the fullness of time, God sent His Son.

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**“For unto you is born his day in the
city of David a Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.”**

to

**What the Angel said
the Shepherds
Luke 2:11**



Jesus' Birth Was A Divine Occurrence

JESUS - GREATER THAN HIS ROOTS

Jesus was born in obscurity, not in the court of a king nor with the anticipation of royalty. He was cradled in a manger, surrounded by straw, some animals, and His father and mother. He was brought up in a country village, not in the synagogues of the religious, the palaces of the rich, nor the courts of the powerful. Jesus was trained at home by His mother, not the great universities of His day. He never crossed frontiers to see the sights, to interact with other cultures, or to broaden His experience. He was born of a people who were peculiarly secluded to their land, who had narrow religious customs, and had an exclusive monotheistic belief in God. He had no access to great philosophical literature of the Greeks, the great legal literature of the Romans, the mystical literature of the Persians, nor even to the great libraries of Jerusalem. He only had access to the scrolls of Scripture found in His small town synagogue. Yet, out of this limited environment and narrow heredity, stepped the one person who was peculiarly greater than His roots, who understood more than the learnings of the scholars, who had more authority than the political leaders, who had more might than the soldiers who carried their weapons of war. Out of this little town stepped a perfect man who changed the destination of history.

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“Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

**What the Angel said to Mary
Luke 1:31-33**



Jesus' Birth Was A Divine Occurrence

JESUS MUST

To be the Messiah of the Jews:

He must be born of Jewish blood in a Jewish home, in the Jewish nation, according to the Jewish tradition.

He must be born in the town of Bethlehem, where a star stood over Him, and He must be called out of Egypt, and born a king among kings.

He must have a mother whose lineage goes back to King David, from the tribe of Judah, she must be submissive to God and the most godly woman among women.

He must grow up before the face of Jehovah, and preach in the anointing of the Spirit, He must do miracles and He must deliver the captives from sin.

He must be despised of men, a man of sorrows, He must not open His mouth before His accusers, and be wounded of men and stricken of God.

He must be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, brought as a lamb to the slaughter, be pierced and cry out, "My God why has thou forsaken me."

He must make His soul an offering for sin, be buried in a borrowed tomb, then free captives and lead them into glory.

He must raise from the dead, sit at the right hand of God, be an eternal priest for His people, and be given the kingdoms of the world.

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“When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

**The statement of Paul
Galatians 4:4,5**



Jesus' Birth Was A Divine Occurrence

NEVER BETTER

There was never a better time for the Jewish Deliverer to be born. The Jewish nation was ready for her Messiah

The Jewish nation had flirted with the religions of the nations around her. The nations had not loved her, but violated her.

The Jewish nation had prostrated herself to demonic idols, but God humbled His people.

The Jewish nation returned from the Babylon captivity broken from adultery and idolatry. She was committed to keeping God's Law.

The Jewish nation gathered all the Old Testament scrolls into one book and translated the Scriptures into the language of the people.

The Jewish nation built synagogues in every neighborhood where Jews lived, and taught her people their heritage.

The Jewish nation lived in the Roman world of peace, so she was not threatened by invasion, destruction or elimination.

The Jewish nation had Herod's Temple, but the glory cloud was gone. She occupied Jerusalem, but couldn't rule herself.

The Jewish nation was ruled by the iron fist of Rome so she desperately searched for a Messiah to deliver her.

The Jewish nation prayed yearly for Messiah to come, and in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son.

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“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6



Jesus' Birth Was A Divine Occurrence

SECTION THREE

The Magnificent Example Of Jesus' Life



“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

Luke 2:52

“The child grew and waxed strong in Spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

Luke 2:40



The Magnificent Example Of Jesus' Life

PATIENT JESUS

*Jesus was conceived in His mother's womb,
Yet patiently waited for the fullness of time to be born.*

*Jesus was given a body that was formed by the laws of human growth,
Yet He patiently grew to attain favor with God and man.*

*Jesus is the center of the universe that He created,
Yet patiently waited to be introduced by John the Baptist..*

*Jesus is solely without sin in thought and deed,
Yet endured temptation to demonstrate His victory over sin.*

*Jesus created people and gave them the ability to know God,
Yet had to patiently teach people lessons concerning Himself.*

*Jesus who had ultimate power to do whatever He willed,
yet patiently waited to heal and perform miracles in the power
of the Holy Spirit.*

*Jesus, knowing all things actual and possible, had to abstain from pointing
out His betrayer,
While He waited patiently to be pointed out, and betrayed.*

*Jesus who was the perfect Word and could explain all things,
Patiently stood before a sinful judge and opened not His mouth.*

*Jesus who will judge all things in judgment,
Patiently waited for His death, not allowing disciples or angels to
take up an avenging sword.*

*Jesus who stopped the sufferings of others,
Patiently endured spitting, scourging, and was wounded and
fouly crowned.*

*Jesus displayed enduring patience that none of us can achieve,
Yet is both the Lord who possesses patience and dispenses patience.*

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**“Where is he that is born King of the
Jews? for we have seen his star in the
east, and are come to worship him.”**

What the wisemen said
Matthew 2:2



The Magnificent Example Of Jesus' Life

WHAT WAS JESUS

Today there are compulsive workers, but Jesus was not a workaholic,-- He was always busy.

Today there are clock-watchers, but Jesus never wasted time,-- He was always where He was supposed to be, on time.

Today there are freespenders, but Jesus never wasted money,--He always used money properly.

Today there are crowd pleasers, but Jesus never played to the audience,-- He was always concerned with every individual in the multitude.

Today there are worry-warts, but Jesus never fretted about anything,-- He always trusted His Heavenly Father to work all things out.

Today there are perfectionists, but Jesus was not compulsive over details,-- He knew every detail of life around Him.

Today there are stingy individuals, but Jesus was not a miser,--He never wasted money.

Today there are multi-talented performers, but Jesus never tried to do everything,--He always did everything expected of Him.

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**“They shall call his name Emmanuel,
which being interpreted is, God with
us.”**

Matthew 1:23



The Magnificent Example Of Jesus' Life

PERFECT—WITHOUT EXTREMES

Jesus was the perfect man without extremes, His zeal never degenerated into fanaticism, nor did His determination plunge into hard-headedness. His love never became weakness, and His tenderness for people never became mere sentimentality. He was other world minded, yet He was never detached from this world. He had dignity, yet was humble. He had self-respect, but was never proud. He was concerned about people, but did not have undue familiarity. He exercised self-denial in everything, yet was not self-effacing.

Jesus had the strength of manhood, yet the innocence of childhood. He was completely dedicated to doing God's will, yet He was devoted to helping people. He was uncompromisingly hard on sin yet tender in His love for the sinner. He never made a reputation for Himself, yet always stood in dignity that commanded the attention of others. He threw caution to the wind entering situations of danger and embarrassment, yet was always wise in His actions. Jesus was both unyieldingly firm yet sweet and gentle. He had the ruggedness of blue denim overalls, yet the elegance of fine lace.

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**“Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou
art the King of Israel.”**

What Nathanael said of Jesus
John 1:49



The Magnificent Example Of Jesus' Life

KNOWING CHRIST FROM WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

We are not told what He was like as a baby, but everything we know about Him tells us He was a normal boy.

We don't know much about His childhood, but those around Him in His growing years gave no indication of coerced influences that gave Him superior wisdom that far exceeded normal growing children.

We have no idea what dreams Mary and Joseph had for their son Jesus, but their significant silence tells us they were the type of parents the Heavenly Father planned for Him.

We have no sequential history of events to describe His growth through childhood and youth, but the few glimpses in scripture suggest natural growth, normal development, and un-noticed achievements, except for the events in the temple when He was twelve.

We have no authentic description of His human features, but most everyone who reads about Jesus, knows exactly in their heart what He looked like.

And those who have Jesus living in their heart, know for sure all they need to know about the physical life of Jesus, and what they don't know is not necessary.

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“Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”

What the woman at the well
said of Jesus
John 4:29



The Magnificent Example Of Jesus' Life

HIS GREATNESS

The greatest man that has ever lived motivated the writing of some of the greatest books that influenced history, although He never wrote one.

The greatest man that has ever lived motivated the writing of some of the greatest music that has ever moved listeners, although He never composed a song.

The greatest man to ever live motivated His followers to build hospitals, orphanages, universities, and many other institutions to influence the world, although He never suggested them or built one Himself.

The greatest man to ever live had the greatest influence over the greatest number of individuals, although He seized no power by the sword, by political action, or by business manipulation.

The greatest man to ever live did the most good, for the most number of people, among the most number of ethnic groups, in the most diverse circumstances, that resulted in up-lifting the most number of people, and giving them the best quality of life, and motivating them to share their blessing with the most needy recipients.

The story of the greatest man to ever live is told in the Bible, God's book. All God wants us to do is read it and believe it. It is a story simply told of a life that was simply lived. The greatness of this character was in the simple way He lived, the simple sermon He preached and the simplicity of the way He helped people. The greatest man to ever live is Jesus, who said, "Follow Me."

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SECTION FOUR

The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons



HIS SERMONS OPENED

Jesus' sermons were full of pictures, images, and figures of speech.

He loved nature about Him, and was an accurate observer of its beauty. He saw beauty in the color of flowers, the flight of birds in the sky, the small meadow flowers, the changing of the seasons, and the ever-present grass on the mountainsides.

When Jesus speaks, our thoughts run to natural images. We see the sower casting his seed, the fisherman pulling his net, the salesman searching for lost pearls, the father weeping over a prodigal son, and a shepherd sacrificing for his sheep.

The sermons of Jesus made us see the waving lilies in the field, sheep following a camel attempting to squeeze through a narrow gate, ten virgins with lamps waiting in the darkness for the bridal procession, the publican with bent head praying in the Temple, the rich man seated in his palace eating at a banquet and a beggar lying in the gate with dogs licking his sores. Jesus used these pictures and hundreds of other pictures to open up our hardened hearts so we could see God's plan for us, and to open our blind eyes, so we could see God's love.

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**“This is my beloved Son, in whom I
am well pleased.”**

**What the Father said at the
beginning of Jesus’ ministry
Matthew 17:5**



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

HIS SERMONS LIKE STARS

The sermons of Jesus were essentially Jewish in nature because He was born of a Jewish maiden, raised in a Jewish home, and He came to His own preaching the Word of God. He did not preach like those in western civilization.

The Western sermon is rationalistic, taking an important subject, dividing it into different branches like the limbs of a tree, then explaining each fully, under each head, closely moving from introduction to a conclusion. The western sermon is like links on a chain moving from one point to another, then calling for a response.

Jesus' sermons were different. He loved to ponder long a single point, to turn it around, around and around, then gather up all truths about it into one focus. His sermons, like a glass of water, was poured into thirsty hearts.

The Western sermon is like a shooting star across the dark night, the eye following the comet tail from beginning to the end. The most important thing about a Western sermon is its destination. But not so the sermons of Jesus. His sermons are like gazing at the sky at night, full of innumerable burning stars, each star shining forth in a black background, so that we could see all the stars at the same time. Each star is a new truth and a new revelation of Himself, burning itself into our hearts. His sermons make us feel God's majesty, experience God's love and know that His Father cares for us.

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“A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.”

**What the man born
blind said of Jesus
John 9:11**



The Enduring Power of Jesus' Sermons

HIS SERMONS MAKE MUSIC

Jesus painted His sermons like the artist that takes burnt charcoal to sketch a face to make you laugh, weep, or make you wonder.

Jesus presented His sermons as a composer writing music to make your spirits soar on the wings of the birds in the sky, or race with the young deer searching for a drink of cool water in the mountains. His sermons were the music of the soul set free, praising God for His majesty. His sermons were the lament of the damned to those who rejected them, crying out as they walked into Hell.

All who received His sermons could carry away the tune, as one inwardly hums a life-long melody. His sermons can be studied a life-time, as one gazes at the stars, but never fully understanding them. His sermons can be enjoyed continually, as one savors his favorite meal.

His sermons were water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, light to the blind, a path to the lost, warmth to the cold hearted, and music to those deaf of soul.

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“And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?”

What the critics said of Jesus
John 7:15



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

SERMONS—SHORT AND SIMPLE

The sermons of Jesus consisted of numerous sayings. Like an acorn that grows a mighty oak, each one of Jesus' sayings consisted of the greatest possible world of truth in the smallest possible container. Jesus expressed truth in language so concise and poignant, that it was like a bullet that flies straight to the target, making its mark.

Whole sermons of Jesus can be remembered by a single verse, a single sentence and sometimes by a single phrase.

- * *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”*
- * *“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*
- * *“Lovest thou me, more than these?”*
- * *“Marvel not that I say, you must be born again.”*
- * *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*
- * *“Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”*
- * *“When you pray, say, Our Father . . .”*

These sermons in a sentence have found their way into the memories of Christians as no other words in history. Sometimes, even before Christians comprehend the message of Jesus, they remember a word spoken by Jesus that was planted like a seed into their mind, later to incubate, and the truth brought forth a changed life.

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“I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of Israel.”

**What the demon said in the
synagogue in Caperneum
Mark 1:24**



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

INNER BLESSINGS ARE GREATEST

One of the greatest sermons preached by Jesus was the Sermon on the Mount. In that great manifesto, He said anyone who followed Him could be "Blessed," but His blessing was not of position, money, or social elevation.

Jesus promised His followers inner blessings . . . blessings of the heart, not blessings to their outer circumstances.

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Those who listened to Jesus' sermons were blessed to actually listen to God's Son, blessed to see His compassionate delivery, blessed to hear a new message, and blessed when they did what He said.

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“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:17



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

JESUS PREACHED THE KINGDOM

Jesus preached about the kingdom of God. Remember He began many of His statements saying, "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto...."

Jesus introduced the kingdom of God that was within the hearts of people. Jesus was not a conquering general nor did He lead an army of soldiers. Rather Jesus conquered the heart, and sat upon the throne that was located within their heart. The kingdom of God was new to those who listened to Jesus, even though the prophets had predicted it, and the saints had looked forward to it. Jesus told us that we should pray daily, "Thy kingdom come."

Jesus declared there were great privileges in the kingdom, and that those who believed in Him would be partakers of His future kingdom. He said that those who were the least in the kingdom, would be greater than John the Baptist.

Jesus said we could enter the kingdom when we are born again. He also taught that when we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all other things will be added to us.

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**“And I saw, and bare record that
this is the Son of God.”**

**What the disciple John said
at the beginning of Jesus’
ministry
John 1:34**



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

WHAT HIS SERMONS DIDN'T SAY

The greatness of Jesus' sermons is measured by what He didn't say, as well as what He uttered. Most listeners would naturally expect Jesus to expound a system of doctrine that unveiled the mind of God. Some looked for a catechism, a confession of faith or they might have looked for well-outlined sermons; but they did not find them.

Jesus did not use theological phraseology, He did not describe the Trinity in creed, nor did He approach the subject of pre-destination, effectual calling, the mode of baptism, nor did He even talk about how to organize the church. Did He ignore these ideas, or did He give truth as seeds to be planted . . . watered . . . grown . . . and harvested. The simple truth taught by Jesus is the deep foundation for the academic theologians.

To understand the awesome power of God, Jesus told us that the Father looks after the sparrow, and feedeth them . . . so why should you worry.

Jesus did not attempt to explain God's sovereignty, but He said that God covers the field with grass, why should we worry about our clothing. Jesus did not teach the organizational structure of the church, He simply said, "Where two or three are gathered together, I am in the middle of them."

Jesus spoke the language of life, so people could understand Him and apply His message to life.

Jesus didn't have to say "I love you," He simply touched the hearts of people with His love, and they knew it because they felt it.

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“Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.”

Luke 5:3



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

JESUS' SERMONS FOR ALL

The people loved the sermons of Jesus, because His words healed their wounds. "They wondered at the gracious words which proceedeth out of His mouth." In spite of His tone of authority and His boldness, and even in spite of His scathing attacks on the Pharisees, Jesus gave a glow of grace and love to the downtrodden and hurting.

His sermons lit a heavenly fire in the cold hearts of those who heard Him, and the warmth of that fire gave comfort to their empty hearts.

The scribes were hard . . . proud . . . and loveless. Their sermons flattered themselves, and praised the rich of their community. Jesus did not pander to the ego of the rich or powerful, but rather reached out His hand to the great mass of hearers who were hungry, needy and looking for a message from heaven.

Jesus never missed the needy heart in those looking for help, even when a woman sneaked behind and touched the hem of His garment. He knew and responded, "Who touched Me?" Needy hearts could not be hidden from Jesus, even when buried beneath the rubbish and filth of sin. He told a woman—five times a loser—about living water. He told a woman caught in the act of adultery that He didn't condemn her.

Jesus did not address His audience as members of any class, as possessors of any peculiar culture, or as people of wealth, rank, education or position. Jesus spoke to all alike, but that did not mean they were all the same. Some were deeper in sin than others, some were shallow in their understanding, but all were needy and Jesus loved each.

Each hearer received a word from Jesus according to the particular need of each. The small and shallow mind received as much as it could take, then went away filled. The larger and deeper mind was filled and also went away overflowing.

The sermons of Jesus are for all generations, for all classes, for all stations in life, and for all ages, including children, the rich, slaves and soldiers. The sermons of Jesus are for you.

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“Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.”

Mark 2:2



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

HIS SERMONS LASTED

His miracles were like the bells on a church, they made the most noise while attracting people to Jesus. But His sermons made the deepest impression on the heart and the longest influence on their life. When Jesus healed, it was only for a lifetime, but when He preached, His words remained forever, to save a lost sinner or bless the entire world.

His miracles drew the momentary applause of the crowd and the temporary excitement of the moment. But His sermons were quiet and like silence that makes us think, His sermons etched themselves into the steel of our souls.

Jesus spoke in their synagogues and sometimes on the mountaintop. On the beach so many pressed upon Him to hear His sermon, that He had to speak from a ship.

Of all the words He preached, if pressed into ordinary sermons, they would occupy less than a dozen in number, yet they are the most life-changing literary heritage known by the human word. His sermons, like His miracles, were the extension of His heart, and everyone of His sermons reflected the grandeur of His character.

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His miracles drew the momentary applause of the crowd and the temporary excitement of the moment. But His sermons were quiet and like silence that makes us think, His sermons etched themselves into the steel of our souls.

Jesus spoke in their synagogues and sometimes on the mountaintop. On the beach so many pressed upon Him to hear His sermon, that He had to speak from a ship.

Of all the words He preached, if pressed into ordinary sermons, they would occupy less than a dozen in number, yet they are the most life-changing literary heritage known by the human word. His sermons, like His miracles, were the extension of His heart, and everyone of His sermons reflected the grandeur of His character.

Elmer Towns

“And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.”

Luke 4:14



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

SERMONS OF POWER

When Jesus preached, the crowds noted that, "His Word was powerful." And what do we mean by power other than the unction of the Holy One, i.e., the Holy Spirit? Jesus was filled with the Spirit, and spoke in the power of the Spirit. The message of Jesus burned in the heart and swelled in the minds of listeners. Some cried out, "Did not our hearts burn within us as He spoke with us on the way." Jesus was so filled with the Spirit that it not only filled His heart, but there was enough of the Spirit to be imparted to His hearers, so that they were overflowed with His words. They shared His message because it changed their lives.

Elmer Towns

**“And again He began to teach by the sea.
And a great multitude was gathered to Him,
so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the
sea; and the whole multitude was on the
land facing the sea.”**

Mark 4:1



The Enduring Power Of Jesus' Sermons

BOLD SERMONS

Jesus was bold to point out the chief abuses and lies that people believed. Jesus was not just a meek and mild speaker at a women's tea. His sermons had strains of fierce indignation, telling the Pharisees they were like serpents. On another occasion He said that they were born of their father the Devil. Jesus lived in the age of sham—little people occupying high places, vaunting their self-respect, and parading themselves to be something in social life, but at the same time they destroyed the very Jewish faith they held dear. There was so much hypocrisy in the time of Jesus, that one wonders if they didn't even doubt themselves. Jesus said they had the stench of death, and their hearts were like an open grave. He said that the positions they highly esteemed, were an abomination in the sight of God.

Elmer Towns

“But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.”

John 8 :1,2



The Enduring Power of Jesus' Sermons

PREACHING HEAVEN

When Jesus preached to the multitudes, He saw heaven in the face of people because there is great potential in each. All human distinctions disappeared when Jesus preached His sermons. He did not revere the rich, nor did He disdain the woman taken in the act of adultery. He did not blame the man for being eight years lame at the Pool of Bethesda, nor did Jesus ignore the small children because they were of no consequence. Jesus likened all people who would seek the Father, to come to heaven as a small child.

Elmer Towns

SECTION FIVE

The Unimaginable Sufferings Of Jesus' Death



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:16-18



The Unimaginable Sufferings Of Jesus' Death

THE ELECTRIFYING MESSAGE OF JESUS

Jesus died a gruesome death of Roman crucifixion, an execution so violent that Roman citizens were excluded from it. He died a death reserved for thieves, and robbers. He was officially pronounced dead and laid in a borrowed tomb, and the world thought they were rid of Him. Jesus left no children as heirs to His greatness. His followers deserted Him in His hour of death. Jesus left no written book, no organized movement, no earthly kingdom. By all human analysis, all traces of His existence should have vanished from the earth.

But after three days in the tomb, He arose from the dead and appeared to His eleven disciples who had been closely associated with Him. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon these followers and His presence in their hearts motivated them, so that without thought for their life, they went out and changed the world with the message that Jesus was alive. They promised that Jesus would come into listener's hearts to transform them. Within three centuries, Jesus had conquered the Roman Empire; not from without, but within. Today, the world's calendars with few exceptions, date time from His birth. Nations that have called themselves Christian have dominated the world's destiny since Christ arose from the dead. The book that tells the message of Jesus has transformed individuals and societies, wherever it is read and believed. It has the greatest circulation of any book every printed. The story of Jesus has electrified the world.

Elmer Towns

**“The Lamb of God, who taketh away
the sin of the world.”**

**What John The Baptist said
of Jesus
John 1:29**



The Unimaginable Sufferings Of Jesus' Death

SUFFERING

Jesus suffered from several wounds. The wounds from the nails in His hands and feet would have pulsed through the entire body. The wounds from the crown of thorns on the delicate nerves and tissues of the skull would have throbbed making clear thought impossible. The scourgings by a whip would have ripped the skin of His back, leaving it raw and swollen.

The body hanging on the cross would have slumped, cutting off air to the lungs. When the victim pressed upon the nails through the feet to aright itself to get air to the lungs, the wounds on the back would have scraped on the rough wood of the cross, creating pain.

The loss of blood and air caused frequent faintings and traumatic fever. The victim suffered intolerable thirst and pain.

Any of these factors would have caused the death of Christ, i.e. the scourgings, loss of blood, asphyxiation, loss of bodily fluids, pain or fever. If these were not final, the victim's legs were broken. "When they came to Jesus, and saw that He was dead already, they break not His legs." None of these factors took His life. Jesus said, "I lay down my life . . . no man taketh it from me" (John 10:17,18). In His final words on the cross, Jesus said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

Elmer Towns

**“For the Son of man is come to save
that which was lost.”**

**What Jesus said of Himself
Matthew 18:11**



The Unimaginable Sufferings Of Jesus' Death

SECTION SIX

Jesus' Eternal Influence And Glory



“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12



Jesus' Eternal Influence And Glory

JESUS SHAPED THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

*Jesus left no writings,
but without His life, His character, His teaching,
there would be no New Testament, the writings that have shaped the history
of Western Civilization.*

*Jesus was not just a religious teacher,
His life and death echoed throughout Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures.
The New Testament repeatedly verified the promises,
that He has personally fulfilled prophecy.*

*Jesus said He was the manifestation of God in the flesh,
and that God sent Him, that God loved us,
and that His life showed us how to live.*

*Jesus didn't set forth His ideas as one more religious option,
but He boldly announced God was his Father,
that His death would save all who believed in Him,
That he would rise from the dead to give life and power to His followers.*

Elmer Towns

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2



Jesus' Eternal Influence And Glory

JESUS DEMANDS OUR RESPONSE

Who would not recognize the superiority of Jesus?

Look at all the names they called Him . . . Master, Lord, Savior, Rabboni, Son of Man, Son of God; these reflect a glimpse of His dignity.

Look at the different miracles performed by Him . . . cleansing leprosy, sight to the blind, walking on water, feeding 5,000 people and raising the dead; these reflect different spheres of His power and authority.

Look at His teaching . . . thoughts profound in their simplicity, ideas mature in their initial presentation, and themes personified by His perfect life, these demand our obedience.

Look at the prophecies of His birth . . . born of a virgin, born in Bethlehem, born to the line of David, born a king and His coming announced by a star; these add credibility to his character.

Look at His divine attributes . . . all power is given to Him, He knew the hearts of men, and He was in heaven while He spoke on earth; these demonstrate His deity.

Look at His glory, . . . He was worshipped by women, He was one with the Father and He was transfigured before His disciples, these demand our respect.

Look at the prophecies of His death . . . betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, He openeth not His mouth, they gambled for His robe, and pierced His side, these demand our faith in Him.

Elmer Towns

**“And Thomas answered and said
unto him, My Lord and my God.”**

Spoke by Thomas the
Doubter after seeing the
resurrected Jesus
John 20:28



Jesus' Eternal Influence And Glory

BUT JESUS

The greatness of Jesus was not in His powerful miracles, but in His modest and quiet nature that attracted all types of people to Him.

The extensive influence of Jesus was not heroism, physical conquest or imposing physique, but His humble attitude, His compassionate miracles, and the evident truth of His sermons.

The popularity of Jesus did not come because He gave money to the poor, freedom to slaves, or land and jobs to the disenfranchised, but because He genuinely related to people as a son, brother, citizen, teacher and friend.

The wisdom of Jesus did not come from universities, great teachers or the books of libraries, but from the simplicity of every day truth. He gave sermons that people accepted for their self-evident truths.

The authority of Jesus did not flow from armies, legislative bodies, rulers, or worldly bribes, but out of love and obedience disciples followed Him to their death, multitudes believed in Him, nations based their laws on Him, and He changed history as no other individual.

Elmer Towns

“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

John 20:31



Jesus' Eternal Influence And Glory

*MORE THAN THE SUM OF ALL
OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS*

Most men have one outstanding characteristic by which they are known— Abraham for faith, Job for enduring trials, Moses for meekness, Joshua for victory, David was a man after God's own heart, Solomon is known for wisdom, Elijah for boldness, Jeremiah the Weeping Prophet, and Daniel was the statesman for God.

In the New Testament John was known for love, Peter for boldness, Philip for evangelism and Stephen for steadfastness in the face of death; Paul was the apostle of grace, the writer of books, the missionary to the Gentiles, and the great teacher of justification by faith.

Jesus is not known for just one of these characteristics, but in Jesus we find all the great characteristics of all the great men of God. Jesus had every quality of character, yet was consistent in each of them at all times. No act or word by Jesus contradicted anything that He was, nor contradicted anything He had previously done. Jesus had faith in his Father as did Abraham, He was as meek as Moses, as victorious as Joshua, He was a son after the heart of God as was David, as wise as Solomon, Jesus was patient as Job, as tender as Jeremiah, and as diplomatic as Daniel.

When it comes to the New Testament, Jesus was the love that John reflected, He was the boldness that Peter displayed, He was the message of evangelism that Philip preached, and He was the grace of Paul, the object of Paul's writing, and the message of the church's first missionary.

Jesus has the sum of all characteristics, yet is so superior, that none can compare to the Son of God. He is unattainable to human attainment and incomparable to human comparison.

Elmer Towns

“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ”

Philippians 2:8-11



Jesus' Eternal Influence And Glory

PERFECT IN WORD AND SILENCE

Jesus was perfectly balanced in His character at all times. When He spoke, He was as perfect as when He remained silent. When He remained silent, He displayed the perfection of His words. Jesus never spoke when it would have been wiser to remain silent, and He never kept silent when He should have spoken.

Jesus always spoke what He should have said, and Jesus was always quiet when He should have not said anything. The words He spoke, were always the exact words that the Father would have Him speak. At those times when He remained silent, was the time when God would have Him remain quiet.

Jesus was perfect in word and in silence.

Elmer Towns

“Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”

Spoken by those gathered
around the throne in heaven
Revelation 5:12,13



Jesus' Eternal Influence And Glory