

The Greatest Life Ever Lived Ps Ashish Raichur Sunday, December 16, 2012

One Solitary Life (Author Unknown)

Nearly two thousand years ago in an obscure village, a child was born of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village (called Nazareth) where He worked as a carpenter until He was thirty. Then for three short years He became an itinerant preacher. He healed the sick, cast out demonic powers, calmed the raging storm, multiplied food to feed the hungry and most important of all He taught the principles of an unseen Kingdom, that radically challenged human thinking.

This man never went to college or seminary. He never wrote a book. He never held a public office. He never had a family nor owned a home. He never put His foot inside a big city nor traveled even 200 miles from His birthplace. And though He never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness, throngs of people followed Him. He had no credentials but Himself.

While He was still young, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His followers ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and sentenced to death on a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth - the simple coat He had worn. His body was laid in a borrowed grave provided by a compassionate friend.

But three days later this Man arose from the dead - living proof that He was, as He had claimed, the Savior whom God had sent, the Incarnate Son of God.

Centuries have come and gone and today the risen Lord Jesus Christ is the central figure of the human race. On our calendars His birth divides history into two eras. One day of every week is set aside in remembrance of Him. And our two most important holidays celebrate His birth and resurrection. On church steeples around the world, His cross has become the symbol of victory over sin and death.

This one Man's life has furnished the theme for more songs, books, poems and paintings than any other person or event in history. Thousands of colleges, hospitals, orphanages and other institutions have been founded in honor of this One who gave His life for us.



All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the governments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned have not changed the course of history as much as this One Solitary Life.

This is JESUS CHRIST!

H. G. Wells, British writer, (1866-1946)

When asked which person left the most permanent impression on history, he replied that judging a person's greatness by historical standards:

"By this test, Jesus stands first."

"I am a historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history." "Christ is the most unique person of history. No man can write a history of the human race without giving first and foremost place to the penniless teacher of Nazareth."

Here was a Man, the "Son of Man" as the Bible calls Him

He was 'very' human.

He was compassionate.

He faced temptations.

In all the temptations He faced He was without sin.

He was powerful. He healed the sick and dominated demons, disease and death.

He suffered humiliation, false accusation and eventually death on the Cross.

That was His life for about 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ years- about 2000 years ago - within a 200 mile radius of the town of Nazareth.

The CIA World Factbook gives the world population as 7,021,836,029 (July 2012 est.) and the distribution of religions as Christian 33.35% (of which Roman Catholic 16.83%, Protestant 6.08%, Orthodox 4.03%, Anglican 1.26%), Muslim 22.43%, Hindu 13.78%, Buddhist 7.13%, Sikh 0.36%, Jewish 0.21%, Baha'i 0.11%, other religions 11.17%, non-religious 9.42%, atheists 2.04% (2009 est.) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_religious_populations#cite_note-CIA_Factbook-2]

Today 2000 years later:

1, Lives are radically transformed by faith in this Man

His invitation is not one of embracing a new philosophy, or higher level of consciousness, or deeper spirituality – but a radical transformation inside out.



- 2, Sick bodies are healed in the name of this Man
- 3, Demons tremble at the sound of His name

How could this be?

Napoleon Bonaparte, First Emperor of France (1769-1821)

Napoleon expressed the following thoughts while he was exiled on the rock of St. Helena. There, the conqueror of civilized Europe had time to reflect on the measure of his accomplishments. He called Count Montholon to his side and asked him, "Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was?" The count declined to respond. Napoleon countered:

Well then, I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded great empires; but upon what did these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions will die for Him. . . . I think I understand something of human nature; and I tell you, all these were men, and I am a man; none else is like Him: Jesus Christ was more than a man. . . . I have inspired multitudes with such an enthusiastic devotion that they would have died for me . . . but to do this is was necessary that I should be visibly present with the electric influence of my looks, my words, of my voice. When I saw men and spoke to them, I lightened up the flame of self-devotion in their hearts. . . . Christ alone has succeeded in so raising the mind of man toward the unseen, that it becomes insensible to the barriers of time and space. Across a chasm of eighteen hundred years, Jesus Christ makes a demand which is beyond all others difficult to satisfy; He asks for that which a philosopher may often seek in vain at the hands of his friends, or a father of his children, or a bride of her spouse, or a man of his brother. He asks for the human heart; He will have it entirely to Himself. He demands it unconditionally; and forthwith His demand is granted. Wonderful! In defiance of time and space, the soul of man, with all its powers and faculties, becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ. All who sincerely believe in Him, experience that remarkable, supernatural love toward Him. This phenomenon is unaccountable; it is altogether beyond the scope of man's creative powers. Time, the great destroyer, is powerless to extinguish this sacred flame; time can neither exhaust its strength nor put a limit to its range. This is it, which strikes me most; I have often thought of it. This it is which proves to me quite convincingly the Divinity of Jesus Christ.

-- from Jesus Among Other Gods by Ravi Zacharias, 2000, W. Publishing Group, Nashville, Tennessee...quoting from Henry Parry Liddon, Liddon's Bampton Lectures 1866 (London: Rivingtons, 1869), 148.

Because this was not just another man, who showed up in History...this was God who became man...and hence His influence transcends time.

The Eternal God became man.



He came to demonstrate God's love. He came to redeem mankind.

He came to model for us the life that God intends for us.

He came to empower us to live life the Jesus Way!

His was the greatest life ever lived.

He invites you to come step in to a relationship with Him, where you can live life the way you ought to live – live life the Jesus way.

John 10:10





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