

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Jesus Was Not a Great Man • Week of March 8

“Jesus was Not a Great Man” the title of this message series, may cause some of us to do a double-take – “Did I read that correctly?” “Did the pastor just say what I thought he said?” “Jesus was a great man!” But ask yourself, was Jesus merely a great individual? Once we hear about the person of Jesus, there are basically two options of response. Either we believe who He says He is, or we don’t. Either we choose to follow Him, or we don’t.

The first option: we hear about Jesus, perhaps agree that he was a great individual, but continue in our own ‘spiritual’ path. Across the landscape of time, the world has been home to other great men and women. What is so different about this man? Many people think that while the historical Jesus undoubtedly had his imprint on history, there is really no reason to alter who I am because of who He is, to give up my way and go His way.

But then there is another option that is worth careful consideration. The second option: I hear about Jesus Christ, and something inside (at gut-level) tells me that Jesus Christ is exactly who He claims to be—Son of God, Son of Man. Something inside me wants to know more, to talk to people who seem to know Him, and perhaps even pick up my cross and follow Him.

Read Mark 13:5-37

When God’s Christ came to this earth He emptied Himself of ‘divine privileges’ such as, His omniscience (see Philippians 2:7). Thus, when a suffering woman in the crowd reached out and touched the hem of His garment, He genuinely asked, ‘who touched my robe?’ (Mark 5:30) When He speaks of His return at the end of time, He says ‘no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels or the Son himself. Only the Father knows’ (Mark 15:32). And yet, in Mark chapter thirteen, Jesus sees and describes futuristic world (cosmic) scenes that only Heaven knows and understands.

1. Jesus not only had access to information from heaven, He was and is the God-Man connecting heaven and earth, the *stairway* according to His own words in John 1:51 (see also Genesis 28:10-17). If we go with option two, that Jesus Christ is who He says He is, then we must listen to what He says. Why is it important to read (digest, internalize) God’s Word, the Bible?

Share with your Life Group at least one take-away from Christ’s words in Mark 13:5-37 (written in red in many Bibles)?

Jesus warns His followers of several things: ‘Don’t let anyone mislead you... You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues... You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me’ (Mark 13:5, 9). Choosing to follow Christ is not easy. Many great men and women have given their lives for their faith in Christ. Each of the early apostles died for their testimony in their King, their Lord – Jesus Christ (except for John who was exiled).

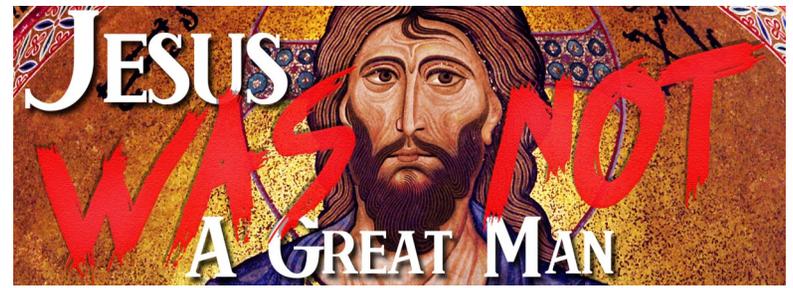
2. Jesus will help you stay strong in your faith (your personal witness, testimony of who He is). Take to heart what He told His disciples: “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Think about it: what is *peace* to you? Does this world offer any lasting peace? (explain)

Following Jesus requires giving up everything. But it is worth the cost! He loves you with unending love. His love for you will carry you from this world into His presence upon the moment of your last breath. Though this world is filled with trouble and persecution for believing in Jesus, you have the greatest treasure – Christ Himself with you and alive in your heart. Nothing can compare with a personal love relationship with the Son of God, Son of Man.

3. Jesus said that the coming of the Son of man is like a man going on a long trip (vv34-37). Before leaving he tells his servants to 'watch for his return.' With which of the two options is your life aligned? Is Jesus merely a great man to you? Or are you giving up everything to follow Him?

If you could ask the Lord one thing right now, what would it be? Pray. Humbly put your need before Him and trust Him.

Close by reading Philippians 5:2-11



Text: Mark 13:10-11, 13b-37

Option One:

Jesus is _____ a _____ man.

Option Two:

Jesus Christ was _____ he _____ to be.

PLAIN TRUTH:

Those professing Jesus as _____ will _____,
while those who profess Jesus as _____ will
_____ and _____.

One Year Bible Reading

Mar. 9: Numbers 11:24-13:33, Mark 14:22-52, Psalm 52:1-9, Proverbs 11:1-3
 Mar. 10: Numbers 14:1-15:16, Mark 14:53-72, Psalm 53:1-6, Proverbs 11:4
 Mar. 11: Numbers 15:17-16:40, Mark 15:1-47, Psalm 54:1-7, Proverbs 11:5-6
 Mar. 12: Numbers 16:41-18:32, Mark 16:1-20, Psalm 55:1-23, Proverbs 11:7
 Mar. 13: Numbers 19:1-20:29, Luke 1:1-25, Psalm 56:1-13, Proverbs 11:8
 Mar. 14: Numbers 21:1-22:20, Luke 1:26-56, Psalm 57:1-11, Proverbs 11:9-11
 Mar. 15: Numbers 22:21-23:30, Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 58:1-11, Proverbs 11:12-13

March 8 & 9, 2020