

Simply Jesus | More Than a Man

John 1

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Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

—John 20:30-31

I. There is a major difference between the Gospel and every other world religion. (John 20:30-31)

II. Jesus was More than a Simple Man (John 1:1-51)

a. Jesus clearly reveals God to us because He Himself is God. (1:1-4; 18; Col. 1:16-17-18; Heb. 1:1-2)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

—John 1:1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son...

—Hebrews 1:1-2a

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

—John 1:18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

—John 1:1

He was in the beginning with God.

—John 1:2

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. 4In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

—John 1:3-5

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. 17And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

—Colossians 1: 16-17

b. Jesus became like us in order save us. (1:14-18; Rom. 5:20)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

—John 1:14a

...and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:14b

For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

—John 1:16

But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God...

—John 1:12a

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

—John 1:17

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more...

—Romans 5:20

c. Jesus's coming was part of God's redemptive plan from the beginning. (1:29-45; 5:39-40; Eph. 1:4-5; Heb. 10:11-12)

even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will

—Ephesians 1:4-5

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.'

—John 1:29-30

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God

—Hebrews 10:11-12

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." 44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

—John 1:43-45

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me, 40yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life.

—John 5:39-40

For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me.

—John 5:46

III. We can't get the Gospel right if we get Jesus wrong.

Study Questions

1. If someone were to ask you to describe Jesus, what would you say? Be as specific and concise as possible. Also, spend some time as a group discussing the various views of Jesus that are prevalent today. In other words, what have you heard, read, or seen about Jesus that doesn't align to what the Bible teaches. Explain.

2. There are many people who believe there is a stark difference between the Old Testament (OT) and the New Testament (NT). Is this something you personally believe? Explain. Take some time to discuss why this belief might be so common. Read John 5:39-47. What does this passage teach us about the relationship between what is recorded in the OT and the NT? In His own words, what would Jesus say is the primary purpose of the OT? Finally, what does this relationship tell us about the person and work of Jesus? Explain.

3. Read John 1:1-5;14-18. What danger do we face if we deny either Jesus's full deity or His full humanity? Be specific. Also, spend some time talking about how our very salvation would be impacted if these things (here in John 1) were not true of Jesus. Wrap up your time together searching Scripture for additional evidence that supports John's statements about Jesus. Discuss any encouragement this consistency of evidence gives you as a follower of Jesus.