

Was Jesus Just a Man? – Joshua Stucki, Callao Christian Church

Was Jesus just a man? Perhaps there was never a more important question.

If Jesus was just a man, then He didn't raise from the dead. Men don't do that. Even with all of our modern medicine and technology, death is still inevitable and irreversible. There is no evidence that will ever change.

If Jesus was just a man, then what do His claims to Godhood mean? Jesus claimed to be God and all of His contemporaries confirmed His claims (John 1:1; 8:58; 10:30, 33; Acts 20:28; Titus 2:3; 2 Peter 1:1; Hebrews 1:8, among many others, even outside the Bible). Even the Roman executioner overseeing his death claimed Jesus' deity: "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54, Mark 15:39)

If Jesus and all of His contemporaries claimed Him to be God, but He wasn't God, then logically either Jesus was lying or He was crazy. For if Jesus claimed to be God, and then He knew He was lying, then this makes Him out to be a fraud (possibly the worst fraud in all of history!). If He claimed to be God and wasn't God – but didn't know it – then He was crazy! It then has to be concluded that a crazy-man who has been the figure-head of the most prolific religion in the history of the world and the world's best-selling book of all time has managed something from chaos no other religious leader has done with all their might. That takes *faith!*

The only other alternative – again, if we utilize logic – is that Jesus is who He says He is. For some, they just cannot accept that Jesus is Lord. If they did, they would be forced to make a decision concerning Him. So people have come up with necessarily-illogical explanations such as: "Jesus was just a good teacher" or "Jesus was just a man." However, those explanations have to be accepted outside of logic – outside of what makes

sense – for either Jesus was a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. In all objectivity, we don't get to choose – He is one of those three.

What evidence is there that Jesus is Lord?

All of Jesus' Apostles firmly believed His Resurrection, for they lived the rest of their lives proclaiming it, and according to all known history of the period, they each died a martyr's death as a result of their preaching. If the Apostles had stole the body from the tomb, that might have saved them some face, but no reasonable human being would sacrifice their lives for a lie they knew. They would have let the faith die quietly to ultimately save their own skin. All the same, if someone else had stolen the body, they would remained in their frightful state. However, *something* emboldened them to live for Jesus, preach Jesus, and eventually *die* for Jesus without exception. None of us would do that without solid proof – like witnessing the resurrected Christ! They did witness that, and commissioned by Him, they lived their lives completely sold out for Him until death!

Their influence was so great and vast that the Christian church today stands as the most influential religious body in the world, with a book that has never left the #1 best-sellers list. The above are all verifiable and logical facts. Nothing religious is necessary to understand the simple logic and plain history of the resurrected Christ! In fact, only a presupposition of “*the supernatural can't happen*” keeps a man from seeing the truth otherwise not inhibited by history or logic. Presuppositions are blind faith alone.

To deny Jesus rose from the dead takes *blind faith* that the miraculous does not happen and there must be some kind of supra-logical explanation for Jesus' brilliance and His Apostles' long-suffering. It is actually much easier to simply intellectually accept the obvious – Jesus is Lord! If Jesus is Lord, then the only question that remains is, “What will you do with Him?” Perhaps that is the most important question of all!