

THE UNIQUE JESUS!!!

By Jack Thompson

Introduction

- I. Suppose I had the only BANANA in the world. And it fell my lot to describe this banana to you. How would I go about it? Probably, I would begin by saying, "It's yellow." "What's yellow?" You have no reference point. New knowledge must relate to old knowledge. Our knowledge grows as we compare new knowledge to old knowledge.
- II. It is hard, yet it is soft. It has an outside cover. "Like an apple?" No, not exactly.
- III. "What is its texture like?" "Hard to describe."
- IV. "What does it taste like?" "It is unique. I don't know how to describe the taste. It is altogether different from anything else."
- V. It is one of a kind. When comparing it to something else, there is a complete inadequacy. Nothing like it.
- VI. Have you ever conceived of describing a banana to someone who has never seen or tasted one??

Body:

I. JESUS -- A UNIQUE PERSON!!

- A. When it comes to understanding the Son of God; He who came to this earth and took a human form; became flesh as Jesus did, you have a uniqueness that is like no one else.
- B. He had flesh--he became a man--and we can compare him to other men, because we have a reference point. We have seen men and if we would see Jesus we would see A MAN. John (1:14) said, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth."
- C. BUT, he was not just a man, not just flesh. We look at Him and say He is flesh, that is all he is -- THAT'S WRONG.
- D. John said that we behold "HIS GLORY." There is something that is different. A man, YES, but more than just (or only) a man.
- E. Mary was told: "And they shall call his name Immanuel, which is, being interpreted, God with us" (Matt. 1:23). Thus, a man; but also God. Jesus was God-man.
- F. So now, we compare Him to God and we learn some more things. But, what reference point do we use to compare Him to God??? There is only one being in

all the world; only one that has ever existed; only one of a kind---AND THAT IS JESUS!!!

II. WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

- A. Has your child ever asked you, "Daddy, what is God like?" Now, that's a tough question. To what do you compare God, to a child?
- B. Child says, "We go to church and worship God. The Bible talks about God. Now, tell me what God is like." With their limited experience and knowledge, how do you explain God?
- C. You might say, "In some ways Daddy is like God, yet very limited. Daddy represents a kind of authority, a kind of rule. He is going to provide for you, to care for you because he loves you; he tells you what you are supposed to do and not to do."
- D. To a child, there is the beginning of a degree of understanding.
- E. HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT GOD IS LIKE?
 - 1. You might use such terms as ETERNAL. But, what do you know of eternity? In your experience, do you know anything about time that is not measured? Time that is unending?
 - 2. We seek to use illustrations to compare:
 - a) Suppose an ant travelling around the middle of the earth (25000 miles); wearing a path until the earth was cut in half. Then, eternity would just be beginning.
 - b) We just have nothing with which to compare eternity.
 - c) God is all powerful, omnipotent, omnipresent; How can we understand these attributes? God spoke, and this universe came into existence. Explain that!!! NO, believe it.
 - d) How do I understand God and His nature?
 - e) How do I understand Jesus and His nature? What is a reference point that I can look upon and say, "He is like this." I confess to you, I CANNOT.
 - f) The problem that we face in so many places today is that man comes along and wants to explain Jesus. They say He was altogether human. One man said, "Jesus was just a man." A man like you and me, only a man. -- THAT'S FALSE, WRONG.
 - g) Was He a man-- Yes, yes, the Bible makes that very clear as we noted in John 1:14. In Heb. 10:5, "But a body didst thou prepare for me..." But, was He only a man??? OH, NO!!!

- h) We need to be extremely careful in our attempts to explain how God dwelt in the flesh. We get into an area that is beyond our comprehension. We begin to speculate. And before long we are affirming things contrary to what the scriptures tell us about Jesus.

III. THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS:

- A. Let us go back to the first century. Many saw Jesus. They would say, "Here is a man." He has a body just like you and me. I can see Him, I can hear Him speak, He sounds like a man. He sleeps, He eats, He becomes tired and weary,
- B. We see Him crucified: He is in agony. He cringes as the stripes are put on His back. Blood flows when the spear enters His side.
- C. When He was raised from the grave, they looked and saw the print of the nails, Thomas felt where the sword had entered. "My Lord and my God."
- D. Here was a man. BUT, THEY SAW SOMETHING ELSE ALSO. Never a man spake like this man. Never a man did what this man did?

IV. THE IMPOTENT MAN. (Matt. 9:1-8)

- A. "Thy sins are forgiven thee." Who can forgive sins. Only God.
- B. That you may know that "the Son of man hath authority on earth to forgive sins (then saith he to the sick of the palsy), Arise and take up thy bed, and go into thy house..."
- C. Did Jesus forgive this man of his sins?? Who would deny that? And, if He did, do we not have God on earth, exhibiting the characteristics and abilities of Deity?? Indeed, He was flesh; but, He was also Deity. God in the flesh, with the power of God-nature.

V. "I AM."

- A. When Moses was sent to the Israelites, He asked, "What shall I say to them. And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM; and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you" (Ex 3:14).
- B. Jesus in his confrontation with the Jews in John 9, uses the same terminology with reference to Himself. The Jews could not accept this fact. They said, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was born, I am" (vs 58). The Jews understood what He said. They took up stones therefore to cast at him. They understood that He made himself God.
- C. QUESTION: How can God lose God-nature? How can deity cease to be deity? Was Christ deity on earth? Indeed, He was. And He showed the characteristics

of deity; by the things He did, and the things He spoke. God-nature is unchangeable.

- D. Whatever we may say or understand about Jesus; His uniqueness; how God could dwell in the flesh, we will never accept a position or a conclusion that says that when Jesus came in the flesh, He became less God. You cannot change God-nature, because an essential part of God-nature is His eternity. He WAS; He IS; and He shall EVER BE.

VI. "ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS." (Luke 2:49.)

- A. At the age of 12 years, you remember the incident that took place when Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. After three days His parents came and found him in the temple. They had sought Him sorrowing. Jesus response, "How is it that ye sought me? knew ye not that I must be in my Father's house (K.J. 'about my Father's business')." Which father did He speak of?
- B. Those skilled in the Law were "amazed at his understanding and his answers" (vs 47). Are these the words of an ordinary 12 year old boy? Jesus knew who He was. Mary, His mother, knew that this son was more than just a man. (vs 51).

VII. THE WOMAN AT THE WELL. (John 4:25, 26).

- A. Jesus meets the woman of Samaria, discusses the "living water," and her marital status. He then states that "God is spirit; and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman then saith, "I know that Messiah cometh (he that is called Christ); when he is come, he will declare unto us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he."
- B. Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah. Was He just an ordinary carpenter from Nazareth, just a man. I THINK NOT!!!

VIII. PETER'S CONFESSON. (Matt. 16:14-20)

- A. What do men think about me? There were different answers given as to what men thought?
- B. Who do YOU say that I am? "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." YOU ARE SO RIGHT PETER. "Blessed art thou, Simon.." You have spoken correctly. I AM THE CHRIST. Just a man, Oh, No!!

IX. TEMPTED IN ALL POINTS LIKE AS WE ARE. (Heb. 4:14).

- A. The scriptures tell us that Jesus "was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin."

- B. Some have concluded: Since God cannot be tempted with evil (Jas 1:13), therefore, in order for Jesus to be tempted, he had to dispose himself of being deity. If he were deity, then he had a distinct advantage over us when he was tempted. And how could He be "tempted in all points," and still be God.
- C. Being tempted "in all points" cannot possibly mean he faced all of the same situations in exactly the same manner as all others. As an example, He was never tempted to lie to cover up a sin, because he knew no sin. He was never tempted to beat or abuse His wife, because he never had a wife. He never had to struggle with alcohol or cocaine addiction, because he never was an addict nor an alcoholic. Thus, in this sense, he was not tempted in the same identical points as the wife-beater, addict, or alcoholic are tempted.
- D. In fact, all men's lives are different in the temptations which we all face. We do not all have the same appetites for the same temptations. What may entice one man may have no enticement to another. Our lives are different, our temptations are different. So, this cannot possibly be the idea of "tempted in all points."
- E. The truth of the matter is: We are all human, and our lives, our very nature, is tempted through "the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). We all have our own "Achilles heel," our own weaknesses, our own temptations. Does that mean that some of are more human, or less human than the other?? No, but we are all tempted in all points. So was our Master.
- F. Our commonality is not that we all have the same individual desires, but that all of us are in a fleshly body, subject to its limitations, fraught with its frailties, and we must all deal with its appetites as we each face our own individual choices. Jesus had all of that--He was human. He was tempted just like we are tempted. In all points.
- G. When the scriptures state that "the Word became flesh," it does not say he "ceased to be deity." He could and did receive worship (Matt. 14:33). The fact that he received worship without rebuking those who so acted states one of two things: (1) He was God, or (2) he therein sinned by accepting worship. I have no problem choosing between these two. He obviously thought the divine characteristics that equated him with the Father still remained even while he was in this fleshly body.
- H. We individually overcome temptations. Some of us more than others. I do not have to sin. It is by choice when I do. What I do successfully SOME of the time, Jesus did ALL THE TIME. Satan tried, Christ was tempted, but He was not enticed. He did not sin. Though housed in the body of the flesh, fully human; yet still deity.

(Much of last section taken from article by Jere E. Frost)

Conclusion:

- I. To Him, before he came to earth -- to Him, while He was here on earth -- to Him as He now reigns in heaven -- to Him who changes not -- to Him, my Lord and my God, all praise and glory, both now and forever.
- II. I have often said, "You explain the virgin birth to me, and I will explain how God dwelt in the flesh." There are some things that I accept by faith. The scriptures teach that God became flesh. I believe that. They also teach that He was tempted in all points as we. I believe that. I may not comprehend or understand, but I believe it.
- III. This perfect man demands that I surrender my will to His will. I must obey His every command. And until we do, we are yet in our sins, and if we die in our sins, where He is we cannot go.

(Developed from a lesson by Jim Everett.)