

# The Greatest

**INTRO:** In the fall of 1995 the Taste of Sharonville was held on a bank parking lot. Daniel talked me into walking there Sunday evening after services. On the way down, he asked me a question. Here it is: “Dad, if you could meet one famous person from history, who would it be?” My immediate answer was, “I would like to meet Jesus Christ.” After a few steps, he said, “I would too.” My answer may not have been exactly what he had in mind, but then, neither was his.

Given the circumstances of the question, why would I want to meet Jesus Christ more than any other person in history? Here are some of my reasons. These are in no certain order.

## I. Jesus Was The Greatest Teacher.

- A. The lasting effect of His teaching surpasses all other teachers. After nearly 2,000 years there is no need for alteration or addition. This is not *just* because no addition or subtraction is to be made to His teaching. It is because He said all that needs to be said!
  - 1. Those who intimate that some addition needs to be made have the obligation to explain what Jesus left out and how they know this!
  - 2. Those who decide that some subtraction is needed likewise have an obligation, they need to show where Jesus said too much and how they know that!
- B. His method of teaching was greater than any other.
  - 1. To large groups [Sermon on the mount] (*Matt. 7:28-29*).
  - 2. To one person [woman at the well] (*Jn. 4:29*).
- C. His appeal in His teaching was different than others.
  - 1. “*You have heard that it hath been said...but I say unto you.*”
  - 2. He made none of the popular appeal to tradition (*Matt. 15:3-9*).
  - 3. Always behind His teaching was “*Your word is truth*” (*Jn. 17:17*).

## II. Jesus Was The Suffering Servant.

- A. Isaiah spoke of Him (*Isa. 53:7-9*).
- B. Jesus of low origin in the eyes of men (*Jn. 1:46*).
- C. Jesus had nothing materially (*Matt. 8:20*).
- D. He came with a mission (*Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 20:25-28*).
- E. He was betrayed (*Matt. 26:14-15*).
- F. He was falsified (*Matt. 26:59-60*).
- G. He was crucified (*Matt. 27:35*).
- H. All of this for a purpose.
  - 1. He died for our sins (*1 Cor. 15:3; Rom. 5:8*).
  - 2. He is our Savior (*Matt. 1:21*).
  - 3. “*Man of sorrows, what a name.  
For the Son of God who came.  
Ruined sinners to reclaim.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*”

### **III. Jesus Is The Most Influential Person In The Annals Of History.**

- A. *See Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:20-21; Phil 2:9-11.* All of these demonstrate His influence.
- B. He influenced many with a simple **“Follow Me.”**
- C. No one else has influenced more, for a longer period of time.
- D. ONE SOLITARY LIFE. *“He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter’s shop, till he was 30, when he became a traveling preacher. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn’t go to college. He had no credentials but himself, yet: Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, and the navies that ever sailed, and all the kings that ever reigned have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life. Do you know this man?”* (Author unknown).

### **IV. Jesus Christ Was, And Is, The Son Of God.**

- A. *John 1:1, 14* reveal the Deity of Jesus.
- B. *Matt 1:23* tells us that He was **“God with us.”**
- C. Peter identified Him as **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”** (*Matt. 16:16*).
- D. It was Thomas who said, **“My Lord and my God”** (*Jn. 20:28*). What more proof did Thomas need than that which stood before him (*Rom. 1:4*)?
- E. The Jewish historian, Josephus, said, *“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ.”* (ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS, xviii, iii, 3).
- F. Josephus had nothing to gain with his remarks, only seeking to be historically accurate. Yet, we should be more concerned with the divine record (*Matt. 3:17*).
- G. As God’s Son, He serves as God’s spokesman (*Heb. 1:2; Matt. 17:5*).

**Conclusion:** These are the reasons for my answer to Daniel’s question one night last fall. By the way, they are also reasons to believe and believing be baptized (*Mk. 16:16*).