

No One Ever Lived The Way He Did

Series: Why Would You Follow That Man?

Rod Myers

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In this day when people's allegiance to Jesus is decreasing and some are on the verge of losing their faith and walking away from Him, we need some compelling reasons to follow Him. We must know why we follow THAT man. As powerful voices increase in volume and as Christian voices decrease in volume, the world has no way to assess the appeal Jesus should have.

In John 12 God the Father spoke from heaven glorifying the name of His Son, Jesus. Some thought it thundered and others thought an angel had spoken. Jesus explains: "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of the world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." (John 12:30-32) The lifting up of the Son on the cross gave the world a view of THAT man. But in the hustle and bustle and noise of this world, will anyone stand still long enough to take a good look at THAT man? Jesus is becoming for many merely statue or painting in a museum, one among so many works of art that must be seen within an hour tour.

Donald Goggins. Former Archbishop of Canterbury often told this story: There was a sculptor once, so they say, who sculptured a statue of our Lord. And people came from great distances to see it-Christ in all His strength and tenderness. They would walk all around the statue, trying to grasp its splendor, looking at it now from this angle, now from that. Yet still its grandeur eluded them, until they consulted the sculptor himself. He would invariably reply "There is only one angle from which this statue can be truly seen. You must kneel. (**The Incomparable Christ**, John Stott, p. 235)

This one single solitary life lived for 33 years in Israel over 2000 years ago has been the talk of the ages, but will we continue to talk about Him?

No One Ever Lived The Way THAT Man did.

- He lived without sin.
 - Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way,

just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.
- 1 John 3:5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.
- He lived putting others before Himself
 - John 4:31-34 (no water, no food) 31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” 32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” 33 Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” 34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.
 - Luke 4:38-44 Healing and teaching 38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. 39 So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. 40 At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. 41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah. 42 At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. 43 But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” 44 And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.
- He lived totally dependent on His Father
 - John 5:16-23 16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. 17 In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” 18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. 19 Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor

the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

- He lived to embody great truths
 - Grace and truth John 1:16-17 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
 - Love John 15:9-15 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
 - Eternal Life John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

One Solitary Life He was born in an obscure village The child of a peasant woman He grew up in another obscure village Where he worked in a carpenter shop Until he was thirty He never wrote a book He never held an office He never went to college He never visited a big city He never travelled more than two hundred miles From the place where he was born He did none of the things Usually associated with greatness He had no credentials but himself He was only thirty three His friends ran away One of them denied him He was turned over to his enemies And went through the mockery of a trial He was nailed to a cross between two thieves While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing The only property he had on earth When he was dead He was laid in a borrowed grave Through the pity of a friend Nineteen centuries have come and gone And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race And the leader of mankind's progress All the armies that have ever marched All the navies that have ever sailed All the parliaments that have ever sat All the kings that ever reigned put together Have not affected the life of mankind on earth As powerfully as that one solitary life. By Dr. James Allen, 1926