

STRANGE THINGS ABOUT JESUS

Text: Luke 5:26

INTRO: Numerous times throughout the gospels we read that Jesus amazed & astonished those who saw & heard Him. Let us note a few of the strange things about Jesus.

I. HIS MANNER OF BIRTH.

- A. He was born of a virgin, MT 1:18-20.
- B. Both the nature & place of His birth had been foretold over 700 years before it happened, Isa 7:14; Micah 5:2.

- C. He was the Son of God & destined to be Ruler of the universe, yet He was born in a stable & His first bed was a cattle trough, Luke 2:7.

II. HIS WORDS.

- A. The authority with which He taught.
 - 1. In the temple at 12 years of age.
And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding & answers, (LK 2:47).

 - 2. In the sermon on the mount.
The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, & not as the scribes. (MT 7:28).

 - 3. In Nazareth where He grew up.
And many hearing Him were astonished, saying "Where did this Man get these things: and what wisdom is this which is given to Him?" (Mk 6:2)

 - 4. In Capernaum where He lived as an adult.
And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority & not as the scribes. (MK 1:22)

 - 5. He even demonstrated the authority to forgive sins.
READ MARK 2:5-12.

6. Even the officers who were sent to arrest Him on one occasion were duly impressed.

The chief priests & Pharisees... said to them, "Why have you not brot Him here?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man." (John 6:45-46).

B. The things He taught were not what they expected to hear.

1. That riches could be a hindrance to entering the kingdom of heaven.

And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go thru the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed. (Matt. 19:23-24).

2. He put the Sadducees to silence with His application of Exodus 3:6.

And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. (MT 22:33).

3. In Capernaum, when He referred to Himself as the Bread of Life many of His disciples said "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" (JN 6:60)

4. The multitudes in Jerusalem were impressed & astonished with His application of Isa 56:7 & Jer 7:11 when He cleansed the temple, Mark 11:18

III. HIS DEEDS.

A. He raised the dead.

Immediately the girl arose & walked... and they were overcome with great amazement. (MK 5:42).

B. He miraculously healed deaf mutes.

And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear & the mute to speak" (Mark 7:37).

C. After fishing all night & catching nothing, Peter & his companions were astonished at the catch of fish Jesus enabled them to make, Luke 5:9.

D. He cast out demons.

So they were all amazed & spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out." (Luke 4:36).

E. He walked on water. He fed multitudes. He healed the lame, the maimed, the blind. He calmed storms. He foretold future events.

IV. HIS CHOICE OF FRIENDS.

Fishermen, customs agents, Zealots. He was at ease with farmers, merchants, shepherds, kings, scribes, priests, lawyers.

V. HIS DEATH.

A. He was sinless, yet He died a death usually reserved for the vilest of criminals.

B. He had the power to resist being arrested & crucified, but He did not do so, MATT 26:53.

C. He lived a very modest life, but was buried among the rich, MATT 27:57-60; Isa 53:9

D. By His own power, He came back from the dead.

My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down & I have power to take it again. (John 10:17-18).

CONCLUSION: HERE WAS A MAN

Born in an obscure village, the Son of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. Until He reached the age of 30, He worked as a carpenter. Then for 3 1/2 years, He was a traveling preacher. But He never traveled more than 200 miles from where He was born & where He did go, He usually walked. He never held political office, never wrote a book, never went to college, never bought a home, never raised a family, never set foot inside a large city. He never did any of the things usually associated with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except thru the Divine purpose that brot Him to this world. While He was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. Most of His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. One of them betrayed Him & turned Him over to His enemies. He went thru the mockery of a trial, then was nailed to a cross between two robbers. As He died, His executioners gambled for the only property He had in this world, & that was His robe. When He was dead, He was taken down from the cross & buried in a borrowed tomb provided by compassionate friends. More than 19 long centuries have come & gone, yet today He is the center piece of human destiny. I think that I am well within the mark when I say that all of the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the legislative bodies that ever sat & all the kings that ever reigned, all put together, have not effected life on this earth as much as the One Solitary Life. Here was a MAN!

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