



Calvary of Albuquerque

One of a Kind! - John 1:14-18

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

It is a mistake to think of Jesus as "one among many" options in the pantheon of deities. He is unique, matchless, unrivaled, singular, and incomparable. From His birth to His Resurrection, there is no one who even comes close to the majestic Christ. Jesus was One-Of-A-Kind! Let's consider four distinct ways that Jesus was unique and what these mean to us today.

OUTLINE

- I. Unique in His Nativity (vs. 14)
 - A. Who He Was
 - B. What He Became
- II. Unique in His Supremacy (vs. 15)
 - A. John Was Older
 - B. Jesus Was Greater
- III. Unique in His Generosity (vss. 16-17)
 - A. Common Grace
 - B. Covenant Grace
- IV. Unique in His Clarity (vs. 18)



For Home Fellowships:

1. Put yourself in John the Apostle's sandals. What did he see that would make him leave his fishing business and follow Jesus?
2. What do you think it was like for John the Baptist to discover that Jesus was more than just another man or prophet? When do you think he discovered this?
3. Suggested reading: *Jesus among Other Gods* by Ravi Zacharias (Word Publishing), *Jesus Up Close* by Skip Heitzig (Tyndale Publishing), *God is Relevant*, Luis Palau (Doubleday Books)

DETAILED NOTES

81% of Americans "claim" to be Christians. Asked "Who do you think Jesus is?" 70% said Jesus was not just another man. 42% stated he was God among men, 27% human, but divinely called, 9% said He was divine in that he embodied the best of humanity. Most people don't have a handle on who he is. John knew he was different, special, atypical, but he came to believe he was God. John 1:1. World was not expecting Him in this way. Jews expected a human ruler, not God in flesh. Jesus really impressed John. In chapter 1 alone John employs 22 different names/titles for Jesus, (Jesus, Christ, Lord, Light, the True Light...) Billy Sunday said 265 names for Jesus in the Bible, because he is infinitely beyond what one name can express.

- Vs 1-18 Prologue to the Gospel of John
- Vs 14-18 Summarize vs. 1-18, core of the summary

Message: Jesus is Unique

Jesus the unique one, God's only begotten Son. John is the only one who uses that term.

- I. **Unique in His Nativity (vs. 14)**

John records the Christmas story from heaven's point of view. Matthew and Luke tell the historical perspective, John gives us the theological perspective.

 - A. **Who He Was**
 1. The Word became flesh (logos)
 - a. to the Greek the grand reason for existence of order

b. to the Jew power of God Hebrews 1:1,2

B. What He Became

1. preexistence, not born, he always was
2. most profound statement in history
 - a. eternity came into time
 - b. invisible became visible
 - c. infinite became finite
 - d. supernatural confined by the natural
 - e. God moved into our neighborhood
3. like King Arthur in Camelot, how He came did not reveal who He is
4. Great imponderable - A.T. Robertson beyond the power of interpretation, Paul to Timothy
5. How could and why would God become a person?
6. John enjoyed it "We beheld His glory"
7. The lives of the Apostles were changed by Jesus
8. What did Jesus look like physically? The writers of the NT never tell us what He looked like. Not the tall, thin western image we see. Based on history and archaeology He had dark eyes, bearded, short tightly curled hair. 12/02 Popular Mechanics, average build of Semite male at time of Christ 5'11" 110 pounds. Since Jesus was carpenter, he was probably physically fit. Not frail, pale and, effeminate. It wasn't important how He looked, what was important is who He was and what He did.
9. The greatest gift is God wrapped in flesh.

II. Unique in His Supremacy (vs. 15)

John the Baptist referenced here. John the Baptist a witness that Jesus is unique. John the Baptist had a significant following, multitudes, some of which thought he was the messiah. Still had a following in Ephesus after the death and resurrection of Jesus. (Acts 19, baptism of John the Baptist) John said Jesus is preferred before me, because He was before me.

- A. **John Was Older** - John was 6 months older and started his ministry first, but Jesus existed from eternity, and is God. Jesus is the only person who ever lived before He was born. Before Abraham was, I AM! Jews knew He was claiming to be God, they tried to stone Him.
- B. **Jesus Was Greater**- According to Michael Shapiro, author of the 100 Most Influential Jews of all time, Jesus number 2 to Moses. On John's list, Jesus is supreme. Is He supreme in your life?

III. Unique in His Generosity (vss. 16-17) Grace mentioned 4 x in this paragraph. The word fullness used by John only here, makes translation of this verse difficult. It's a favorite word of Paul. Jesus is the unique channel of blessing based on grace.

- A. **Common Grace** We all receive this grace. Health, air, knowledge, friendship, etc.
- B. **Covenant Grace** salvation, Holy Spirit, peace, heaven, all we need 2 Peter 1 to live victoriously.
 1. Grace on top of Grace, like waves on the ocean.
 2. God's grace can handle everyone no matter how vile and hopeless.
 3. The law saves no one (Law through Moses, Grace through Christ)
Righteousness demanded from man under the law/given to man under grace
Righteousness based on man's good works under law/ based on Christ's righteousness under grace.
Blessings accompanies obedience under the law/under grace blessings flow freely.
 4. God loves you a lot!
 5. Brilliant thinker, Karl Barth recognized the most profound truth to be "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so..."

IV. Unique in His Clarity (vs. 18) If you want to see God clearly, look at Christ. The word Son is not the word in the best manuscripts, but rather God. Jesus is God, came to make God perfectly clear to the world. No one has seen God in his undiminished glory and pure essence. If we did, we would die. Without Jesus, God would be distant, unclear and unknowable. Jesus came so man can understand God. We are bound by time and space. Jesus brought the supernatural into the natural. "History is filled with men who would be god, but only one God who would be a Man." God gives grace when you believe the truth. Grace and truth go hand in hand.

Greek Terms: monogenés (only begotten), theomai (beheld, study intently, gaze upon), pléromata (fullness)

Figures Referenced: Billy Sunday, AT Robertson, Billy Graham, Dr. Karl Barth, CS Lewis

Publications Referenced: Popular Mechanics, December 2002. The Jewish 100, A ranking of the Most Influential Jews of all Time, by Michael Shapiro.

Cross References: John 1:1, Hebrews 1:1,2, Acts 19, 2 Peter 1