

Making the Case for the “Real” Jesus (Luke 9:18-20)

What do the crowds say about Jesus? Who is Jesus, really? Popular books and movies of the past few years have fed the public grand theories about the “real” Jesus. They all suggest that the Jesus of Faith cannot be the Jesus of History. But as we study biblical and extra-biblical evidence, we find a compelling case for the real Jesus. The Jesus of Faith is the Jesus of History!

I. A Real _____

- A. Josephus, *The Antiquities*, A.D. 93.
 - 1. James, the brother of Jesus, mentioned in *Antiquities* xx.ix.i
 - 2. Jesus Christ, mentioned in *Antiquities* xviii.iii.iii
- B. Tacitus, *The Annals*, A.D. 115, mentions Christ & Christians in *Annals* 15.44.
- C. Pliny the Younger asks Emperor Trajan, about what to do with Christians in A.D. 111. in *Letters* 10.96
- D. From secular history, We can know 7 things about Jesus:
 - 1. Jesus was a _____ teacher.
 - 2. Many people believed he “worked _____.”
 - 3. Many people believed he was the Messiah, the Christ.
 - 4. Jesus was rejected by Jewish leaders.
 - 5. Jesus was _____ by Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius.
 - 6. Despite his shameful death, his followers believed Jesus was still _____.
 - 7. His followers spread far beyond Palestine by A.D. 64 and worshipped Jesus as _____.

II. A Real _____

- A. Jesus claimed to be _____
 - 1. He accepted title, “Christ, Son of God” (Matt. 16:13-16).
 - 2. He forgave sins (Mark 2:5-7).
 - 3. He is “I Am” (John 8:24, 58).
 - 4. Condemned for the claim (Luke 22:66-71).
- B. Jesus’ claim is either _____ or False.
- C. If Jesus’ Claim is false and He knew it was false then He was a _____.
- D. If Jesus’ Claim is false and He did NOT know it was false then He was a _____.

III. Real _____ to Investigate

- A. Witness: _____ the Baptist (John 5:32-35).
 - 1. Was John the Baptist a real person? Josephus wrote of him also, 93 A.D. in *Antiquities* xviii.v.ii
 - 2. What did John the Baptist say of Jesus (John 1:29-34)?
- B. Witness: The _____ that I do (John 5:36; 20:30-31).
- C. Witness: God the _____ (John 5:37; Matt. 3:17; 17:5).
- D. Witness: The Old Testament _____ (John 5:39, 46-47).

IV. Make A Real _____

- A. If Jesus’ claim is True and He is actually the Lord, then the implications of His lordship are immediate to our lives! It means that:
- B. Jesus is _____ of our praise and worship (Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 5:11-14).
- C. Jesus _____ all authority (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 3:17).
- D. Jesus _____ our love and obedience (Luke 6:46; John 14:15, 21; Hebrews 5:9).
- E. Jesus is Lord and Savior – He _____ away sins (1 Peter 1:18-19; 3:18; Revelation 1:5; Acts 22:16).