# Neighborly Apologetics

The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection- Part 3: Christ's Life and Words



The Royal Law Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work of the Kingdom to the common Christian family



## **Three Great Questions**

"Does God exist?" "Is the Bible reliable?" "Who is Jesus?"



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"Does God exist?" "Is the Bible reliable?" "Who is Jesus?"



Who is Jesus? The Question Pursued... the promise and the prophecy + His life and words His death and resurrection + the claim of deity is Jesus the only way? + how to handle the questions +



Who is Jesus?

# Christ's life and words

His works... and His character



### The Mission...

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman..."

**Galatians 4:4** 



## The Timeline...



1000s of years Prophecies Promises The Seed Line 400 years Silence

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ... And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

### First 30 Years

Luke 4:40, 52



Last 3 Years



### **The Journey Begins**

He began the journey for which all eternity had been waiting... leading Him from obscurity, to changing the entire world, softening hearts and hardening others, dividing a father and a son, a mother and a daughter, causing nations to rise and fall.

His life would seal the destiny of every soul that would ever live, it would speak the most profound truth ever spoken, and provide the greatest example of humility and love that history would ever behold.



He just started to talk... and His words began to turn people upside down.

He started to do things no one had ever done before... and He amazed some and riled others to violent anger.

and He did it mostly alone... walking from village to village with a small band of followers.



And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every kind of disease and sickness among the people. And the news about Him went out into all Syria and they brought to Him all who were ill, taken with various diseases and pains: demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics, and He healed them. And great multitudes followed Him, from Galilee and Decapolis, Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Matthew 4:23-25



'...healing every kind o
No parlor tricks of

### Jesus simply healed people:

He healed those who were lame.
He healed those who were blind.
He healed a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years.
He healed a man with a withered hand.
He healed lepers.
He healed paralytics.
He healed invalids, those with fever, and sick.
He even healed those who were DEAD.

"...healing every kind of disease and sickness among the people."

No parlor tricks of a magician or the self-serving, theatrical acts of mythology.



He cast out demons... No incantations, crysta

### Jesus simply spoke and the demons departed:

He healed a man who was so possessed that no one could constrain him, not even with chains—a man who hid and lived in the tombs, naked, constantly crying out and cutting himself with stones.

What a horror that must have been, not only for him, but also for the community.

Jesus spoke a few words and he was healed. The man became calm, clothed, and in his right mind.

No incantations, crystals, crazy potions, or sensational theatrics...



He stood before the tomb of His friend Lazarus who had been dead for 4 days...

and again, with no theatrics or sensational actions...

### Jesus simply said, "Lazarus, come out."

And a dead, decaying man hobbled out of his grave, still bound in his grave clothes, alive and well again.





He said to the raging storm and sea: "Peace, be still..."

And the winds died and the sea became as glass.

"Who is this man?"



## There was a problem with the miracles of Jesus...



Lazarus



### Bold words...

After Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew records that great crowds followed Him. Why?

Because the people were "astonished at His + teaching..." and He was teaching them as "one who had authority" and not as their scribes.

"Whoever hears these WORDS of mine and acts upon them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock.... But whoever hears these WORDS of mine and does not act upon them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand." (Matthew 7:24-26)



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But... Many of Jesus's followers began to leave Him because His words were getting too uncomfortable...

Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked them if they wanted to leave as well...

Peter replied, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life..." (John 6:68)



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When Jesus returned to His home town of Nazareth, Mark records that Jesus was teaching in the synagogue and those who heard Him "were astonished" because of His words and wisdom and mighty works. (Mark 6:2)

But then they began to say, "Wait a second, isn't this Mary's son, the carpenter?"

Then they took "offense at Him."



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Later, Mark records that the chief priests and the scribes were looking to find a way to destroy Jesus because when He went to Jerusalem and began to teach there, the people of Jerusalem were also "astonished at His words". (Mark 11:18)



### The people who heard His words were "amazed".

They were "astonished" on the mountain.
They were "astonished" in Capernaum.
They were "astonished" in Jerusalem.



### The people who heard His words were "amazed".

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When the Pharisees and Herodians tried to trap Him... He shut them down with His answers.

When the Sadducees tried to nail Him... His words left them speechless.

When the Pharisees sent their top guy to trip Him up... Jesus turned the tables on him and tripped them all up.

"And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask Him any more questions." (Matthew 22:46)





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- The words of Jesus were powerful in His day... They are still powerful now. +
  - They are still uncomfortable to us.

The words of Jesus were astonishing in His day... They are still astonishing in our day.

The words of Jesus were uncomfortable in His day...



He told us to forgive. He told us to love our enemies. He told us to not be lukewarm. He told us to be light and salt. He told us to do good works. He told us to visit those in prison. He told us to care for the needy. He told us to bear good fruit. **He told us to love our neighbors.** 

He told us to forgive others even if they keep hurting us...over and over again. He told us to turn the other cheek when someone strikes us. This is uncomfortable

stuff!

He told us to repent, be holy, to take up our cross and follow Him.



Jesus told us that no matter how good we think we are, we still fall short of God. + He told us we are a murderer if we get angry with someone. +

- He said we are an adulterer if we lust. +
- He said we have to be perfect... +

And we know that we are not...



Peter declared that Jesus had the words of life, but for some, they were words of death...

Jesus was saying to everyone that, without believing in Him, we would remain separated from God, devoid forever of eternal life.

Jesus told Nicodemus that whoever does not believe in Him remains condemned.

Jesus told Martha that anyone who believes in Him will never die.

Jesus told the Pharisees that they were children of the Devil, and that without Him, they would die in their self-righteous sins.

These aren't pretty words.



The Jewish leaders were demanding of Jesus to tell them plainly, "Are you the Messiah?"

> Jesus told them that His works bore witness about Him, but yet they still did not believe.



When Jesus then told them He and the Father "were one," they picked up stones to stone Him...

- +
- + being a man, make yourself God."

So, in the end, it was the words that brought the greatest opposition.

Then Jesus said: "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?"

The Jews answered Him: "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you,

This is still true today.





## The problem with the words...





### His Character

- **Sinless**
- H Kind
- Humble
- **H** Courageous
  - Good
  - Caring
  - Compassionate
- Bold
  Truthful
  Discerning
  Wise
  Loving
  Gracious
  Strong



### And so...

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**Jesus before Pilate:** "...for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth..." (John 18:37)

This is why Jesus is rejected.

It's not because of any lack of evidence... It's because of His words.

This is a spiritual battle...



The birth of Jesus was spectacular, filled with a burst of heavenly and miraculous activity.

> The life of Jesus was powerful, filled with miracles and words that astonished all who saw and heard Him.



The ministry of Jesus was filled with bold words and bold actions, actions that cleansed the temple and overturned the money changers' tables.

Jesus called the religious leaders to task,

calling the Pharisees, scribes and teachers of the Law "hypocrites," "vipers," and "white-washed tombs full of dead men's bones."



### Jesus was unafraid to speak the truth! He was bold and courageous, yet humble, gracious, and kind.



Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

John 21:25







There never was, nor will there ever be, a man like Jesus.



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Next: the death and resurrection of Jesus

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