

Jesus the Perfect Man

Introduction

The Bible offers many heroes for Christians men to admire and emulate. But the superhero among these men is Jesus Christ. He is the perfect man. God's Word urges Christian's to enthrone Jesus as the one to follow and to love.

The Bible is all about Jesus. Jesus said about the OT, John 5:39 *these are the very Scriptures that testify about me.* Luke 24:44 Jesus said *This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.* Judges, prophets, priests and kings were delegated roles that awaited the arrival of Jesus. Their strengths help us understand the value of Jesus for example, David's victory over Goliath prefigures Jesus' victory over Satan. Their failings make us want something better, for example, David's adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah, makes us long for a king who is self controlled.

The characteristics we have studied in the ten men find their perfect expression in the perfect man called Jesus. Jesus is utterly magnificent. He is a life changing inspiring hero. He is absolutely worthy of our worship.

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Let's consider his amazing perfect virtues.

Obedient

Noah was good but Jesus was perfect. Noah obediently built a boat that saved his family and the animals.

Jesus was completely obedient to the Father. This obedience was most tested on the night before He died. Not only a brutal flogging and an agonising crucifixion but the torment of separation from His father for the first time ever, in eternity, lay before Him. He could have said no, as we sometimes do. He was certainly overcome with anxiety. Mark 14:35-36 *Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

Even though He wanted to avoid the cross, the bottom line, as always, was to obey His Father. John 15:10 *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.* Jesus knew that salvation of mankind depended on His perfect obedience. He faced everything we have faced but he never strayed. He faced injustice yet still stayed obedient Hebrews 5:8-9 says *Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of*

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eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Jesus' obedience saved mankind, Romans 5:19 *For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.* Adam's disobedience, original sin, is credited to our account, imputed. In addition we have our own personal disobedience.

Jesus is the final Adam. His obedience to every detail, even death on a cross is credited to our account, imputed to us. Jesus swapped places with us on the cross. There God treated Jesus as if He were us (disobedient) and punished Him. Now God treats us as if we were Jesus (obedient) and accepts us. How wonderful is that! Jesus' perfect obedience is our obedience. **Admire Him!**

Sacrificial

Abraham was good but Jesus was perfect. Abraham offered his son to die, believing that God would raise him up again. Jesus offered himself to die? Many men have sacrificed themselves to others. Soldier's have died, lifeboat men have died to save sailors, husbands have died saving their wives and children. But do people die for this that hate them!

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Jesus the Son of God, shouldn't have to stoop down from heaven to save rotten sinners like us. But He did! Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

Jesus is our Creator, Saviour, Lord, Prophet, Priest and King, yet He offered Himself to suffer as our ransom price for our eternal freedom. Hebrews 9:26 *But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.* Jesus has done away forever the power of sin. He satisfied the Father and reconciled Him to us. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 *For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people.*

Abraham was relatively sacrificial, but Jesus was perfectly so. He gave up everything for us out of a passionate love for the Father and for us. Nothing we ever give up will ever come close to what it cost Jesus to ransom us. **Thank Him!**

Self-Disciplined

Joseph was good but Jesus was perfect. Joseph resisted the seduction of Mrs Potiphar, but Jesus resisted the sustained assaults of Satan with far more temptations.

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Matthew 4:1-4 *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.* ² *After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.* ³ *The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'* ⁴ *Jesus answered, It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.* Satan's temptations for hungry Jesus was to reject the Word of God momentarily and briefly abandon His mission, to use His Divine status for His own benefit.

Adam had surrendered to Satan's temptation to disobey God. He ate the forbidden fruit of the Garden of Eden. The Israelites rebelled against God in the wilderness but on behalf of the human race and Israel, Jesus succeeded where Adam and the Israelites failed.

During Jesus' testing in the wilderness He remained faithful. Only Jesus has been perfectly self-disciplined in all areas of His life **all** of the time. Jesus remained qualified as our perfect Saviour who could die for the sins of others. But His self-discipline had greater significance still.

Hebrews 2:18 *Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.* We are bombarded every day with temptation and of our

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own sinful nature. Jesus knows exactly what we should do. He can help us with instruction from His Word and the power of His Spirit. He can strengthen us to tackle any and all temptations we face.

Hebrews 4:15-16 *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.*

Jesus does know, from personal experience, what every temptation feels like. He is sympathetic to us and we can approach Him for mercy and forgiveness from our failures, and for the strength to resist.

When we are faced with the temptation to sin, our only hope is to pray to Jesus. We gather strength from Him as call upon him for help.

Joseph was impressive in resisting sex with Mrs. Potiphar, but Jesus has resisted every kind of sin, permanently. **Learn from Him!**

Unworldly

Moses was good but Jesus was perfect. Moses grew up in the luxury of an Egyptian palace and gave it up to join

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Israel. Jesus, the Son had eternally lived in a heavenly paradise, and gave it up for the cross! It is remarkable to see what kind of life God chose for Himself when he became human.

Matthew 8:19-20 *Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."*²⁰ *Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."* There were no special privileges for the Son of God, born in a manger, not a palace. Brought up in a poor town called Nazareth. There, Jesus learnt a trade. When He embarked upon His mission, He became a wandering preacher and teacher.

There was no lucrative healing ministry from people who would have paid well for His help. Jesus, the Son of God choose to live a very lowly standard of living. Jesus gave up the glory of heaven for the road to the cross. He chose to walk this sacrificial way of the cross in order to save us.

His poverty reached it depth when he hung on a cross, wracked in pain, humiliated, presumably naked, mocked and hated, under the curse of God on a cruel Roman cross.

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2 Corinthians 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.* By His poverty we have been given every spiritual blessing in Jesus.

Moses was impressively unworldly, but only Jesus gave up heaven for the poverty of the cross. **Emulate Him!**

Wholehearted

Caleb was good but Jesus was perfect. Caleb maintained confidence in God even against threatening opposition, but Jesus was to face the powers of Satan himself on the cross.

Mark 10:32 *They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.* While the disciples were filled with fear Jesus walked straight into the lions' mouth. Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. Jesus knew Psalm 22. He quoted it on the cross. He knew the horrific suffering that lay ahead for Him. Yet Jesus handed Himself over to sinful, evil men.

When he stood before the Sanhedrin council on false

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charges, Jesus refused to defend Himself and freely confessed who He was knowing the implications of doing such.

Matthew 26:63-66 *But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."* ⁶⁴ *"You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."* ⁶⁵ *Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy."* ⁶⁶ *What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered.* Jesus knew that beyond His suffering He would return once more to be with the Father and sit at His right hand side and would judge the world.

Caleb showed courage on the basis of God's word in his willingness to wait and then fight for his inheritance. Jesus demonstrated perfect faith and courage in the Father as He accepted torture and death.

Hebrews 12: 2-3 *fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at*

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the right hand of the throne of God. ³ *Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.* Considering what Jesus endured, we can wait and not grow weary. We can fight and not lose heart. In wholehearted confidence that God will keep His promises. **Consider Him!**

Humble

Isaiah was good, but Jesus was perfect. Isaiah was humbled by the holiness of God to recognise his sinfulness. Jesus had no sin to feel bad about, yet He humbled himself completely under the will of the Father. Considering that Jesus is the Son of God, His gentle humility is extraordinary.

His attitude was not false self-depravation that denied His divine supremacy, but rather a concern to put the needs of others before his own.

Philippians 2:5-9 *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a*

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cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

The Father exalted Jesus because of His humility.

Jesus had descended from the glory of heaven to become fully man with our frailty. Then He served us, in order to meet our deepest need of forgiveness. Then He accepted the brutal humiliation of the cross.

God isn't impressed by our celebrity culture and their self-flaunting. He prizes humility and serving the needs of others.

Hebrews 5:7 *During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.* Jesus' humility was characteristic of all His life on earth. Isaiah was humbled by God because He was a man of unclean lips. Jesus The Son of God humbled Himself to serve us. **Bow before Him!**

Distinctive

Daniel was good, but Jesus was perfect. Daniel resolved not to defile himself with any further compromise, so as to remain distinctive as a man of God. Jesus wasn't just a nice man, a powerful healer and an inspiring teacher. He

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was completely amazing: no one had seen or heard anything like Him! The whole country was turned upside down, and crowds of people travelled from all over to hear Him.

Mark 1:27-28 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.”²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Mark 2:10-12 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man,¹¹ “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Mark 4:39-41 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

It must have been fantastic being around Jesus but at the

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same time quite frightening. He exorcised demons, healed people and raised the dead; He calmed the storms and walked on water, as only God could. When Jesus spoke you heard the voice of God. Jesus was then and is today life-changing.

Colossians 1:15-18 *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

Daniel was impressively distinctive, but Jesus was from another world. Worship Him!

Pastoral

Paul was good, but Jesus was perfect. Jesus is the Shepherd and Pastor who has served us by laying down His life for us on the cross (John 10). When God promised through the Prophet Ezekiel (Chapter 34) to come and search, rescue and gather His sheep, to feed, nurture and heal His sheep, and to judge, defend and rule

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His sheep, we find Jesus fulfilling these promises.

Jesus explained in the Luke 15:6 *‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’* We rightly honour pastors who have faithfully taught us the gospel, guarded us from error and given us God’s Word and taught us to understand scripture. But each are but sheepdogs leading us to the Great Shepherd, who is Jesus, Hebrews 13:20 *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep.*

Paul was an outstanding example of pastoral ministry – planting churches all over the Middle East. But Jesus remains the cornerstone of every single church and He is the Chief Shepherd to whom all other pastors are accountable. **Honour Him!**

Prayerful

Epaphras was good, but Jesus was perfect. Epaphras prayed for the churches he pastored, but Jesus prays for them all. Jesus was evidently a man of considerable prayer, Luke 5:16 *But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.* Jesus often prayed in secret, especially in times of decision. Jesus communed intimately with His Father in prayer, seeking his strength and guidance.

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But is not just the fact that He prayed, but also the way he prayed. Jesus wrestled in prayer. Hebrews 5:7 *During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.*

Today Jesus never stops praying. Even now, Jesus is praying for every single one of us. Romans 8:34 *Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

Epaphras wrestled in prayer for others to stand firm in Jesus. Jesus continues to intercede for all Christians everywhere. Love Him!

Loyal

Onesiphorus was good, but Jesus was perfect. Onesiphorus searched diligently for Paul and supported him. Jesus doesn't have to search for us because His Spirit is always with us.

Jesus' final instructions to His disciples are known as the Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20 *Then Jesus came*

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to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Jesus claimed authority over all the world and he commanded to make disciples of all nations: and He promised to be with us at all times.

Jesus is with us as we go about His mission in His world. He instructs us in His Word, and empowers us to remain faithful.

Paul said that when others deserted him the Lord was with Him. in 2 Timothy 4:16-17 *At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it.* In the same way Jesus stands by Paul he stands by us. He is with us in every situation. The Lord is always with us. **Rely on Him!**

Jesus remains as obedient, sacrificial, self disciplined, unworldly, whole-hearted, humble, distinctive, pastoral,

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prayerful and loyal today in heaven, as He was when He lived on earth.

We can worship and admire Him passionately, follow and emulate Him carefully, commend and proclaim Him boldly, and look forward to being with Him.