

Just Thinking Apologetics #10

In considering who the person of Jesus was, almost no one would question that Jesus was a good man and knowledgeable teacher. Is this all Jesus was, nothing but a great man who shared words of wisdom or was Jesus perhaps more than a mere man?

There are two reasons why Jesus was more than just a great man. First, according to Dr. Kenneth Samples, “A person cannot be great and make the kinds of assertions Jesus made about himself. Such claims would have qualified him as a megalomaniac.” Consider some of the claims of Jesus, “I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26), and “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Secondly, a person who was merely great could never have done the things Jesus did. For example, Jesus offered forgiveness of sins (Luke 7:44-49) and accepted worship of others (Matt. 2:11, 14:33, 28:9, John 9:38). Someone who is a mere man would not do any of these things that Jesus did. Jesus as a worker of miracles also validates that he was more than just an ordinary man.

C.S. Lewis weighed in on the question of Jesus as a good man by saying “You can shut him up as a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”