

## Who is Jesus and What Makes Him Different?

### Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the most extraordinary person in history, and yet He desires a personal relationship with you. He is the Son of God, sent to earth to reveal God's love and offer salvation to humanity. Born over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, Jesus fulfilled countless prophecies written about the Messiah—the Savior whom the Jewish people had been waiting for.

As the Messiah, Jesus came to do what no one else could: rescue humanity from sin and restore our relationship with God. He did this by living a perfect, sinless life and willingly dying on the cross to take the punishment we deserve. Three days later, He rose from the dead, conquering sin and death and proving He is who He claimed to be.

Jesus's life wasn't just extraordinary—it was purposeful. He came not to establish political power or earthly dominance but to offer hope, forgiveness, and eternal life. Today, He offers the same invitation to each of us: to know Him as Savior, to experience His grace, and to walk in His love.

---

### What Made Jesus Different?

#### 1. **Jesus as the Messiah**

The Bible describes the Messiah as the one sent by God to save His people. Jesus fulfilled more than 300 Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, including being born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), being born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), and being called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1). Unlike the expectations of many at the time, Jesus didn't come as a conquering king to overthrow the Roman Empire. Instead, He came as a humble servant to bring salvation to all people—both Jews and Gentiles.

His mission was spiritual, not political, which confused many of the religious leaders. But Jesus's life and resurrection revealed the deeper truth: He came to set us free from the power of sin and death, not just temporary oppression.

#### 2. **Jesus's Radical Message**

Jesus's teachings were revolutionary, challenging the religious norms of His day and offering a message of grace and inclusion. While the religious leaders focused on strict adherence to the law and outward appearances, Jesus emphasized the condition of the heart. He said, "*You have heard it said... but I tell you...*" (Matthew 5:21-22), reinterpreting the law with a focus on love, mercy, and humility.

For example:

- Instead of condemning sinners, Jesus offered forgiveness and restoration, as seen when He told the woman caught in adultery, "*Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin*" (John 8:11).

- Instead of promoting religious exclusivity, He welcomed tax collectors, Samaritans, and others who were marginalized or despised.
  - He taught radical love, even for enemies: *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”* (Matthew 5:44).
3. These teachings were so countercultural that they threatened the power and authority of the religious leaders, ultimately leading to His crucifixion.
4. **Jesus’s Authority**  
Unlike the religious leaders of His time, Jesus didn’t rely on tradition or human interpretation of the law. He taught with divine authority, often saying, *“Truly I tell you…”* or *“I am…”* His miracles, like healing the sick, calming storms, and raising the dead, proved He had power that could only come from God. When He said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life”* (John 14:6), He wasn’t offering one of many paths—He was declaring Himself to be the only way to God.
5. **Jesus’s Death and Resurrection**  
What truly set Jesus apart was His willingness to die for us and His victory over death. While other leaders sought power and recognition, Jesus laid down His life as a servant. He said, *“The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”* (Matthew 20:28). His resurrection three days later is the ultimate proof of His divinity and the foundation of the Christian faith.
6. **Jesus’s Grace Over Works**  
The religious leaders of Jesus’s time emphasized rules, rituals, and earning righteousness through works. Jesus turned this on its head by offering grace—a free gift of forgiveness and salvation that can’t be earned. He taught that salvation comes through faith in Him, not by trying to be good enough. The Bible says, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”* (Ephesians 2:8).
- 

### Why Does This Matter?

Jesus’s life and message were unlike anything the world had ever seen. He didn’t come to enforce religion or condemn people—He came to offer a relationship with God based on love, grace, and truth. His teachings challenge us to live differently, to love selflessly, and to trust Him fully.

Understanding who Jesus is and what makes Him different changes everything. He is not just a historical figure or a religious leader—He is the Savior of the world and the hope for all humanity. Through Him, we find forgiveness for our past, purpose for our present, and hope for our future.

---

### How Can You Know Jesus Personally?

Knowing Jesus isn't about following rules; it's about starting a relationship with Him. You can do this by:

1. **Acknowledging your need for Him:** Recognize that you are a sinner in need of a Savior.
2. **Believing in His sacrifice and resurrection:** Trust that Jesus died for your sins and rose again to give you eternal life.
3. **Inviting Him into your life:** Pray and ask Jesus to be your Savior and guide.

Here's a simple prayer you can use:

*"Jesus, I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God. I know I've sinned and need Your forgiveness. Thank You for dying for me and rising again. I invite You into my heart as my Savior and Lord. Help me to follow You and trust You every day. Amen."*

If you've prayed this prayer, you've begun a new life in Christ! Jesus is ready to walk with you, offering His peace, love, and hope for today and eternity.