

March 16, 2014

One of a Kind

Acts 4:8-12

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The Lord Jesus is _____ unique. No one in all history _____ with His love, His purity, or His honesty. Today we're going to see _____ Jesus is one of a kind. We know the Scriptures come from _____, and there is no other volume in all the earth like the Bible.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Because it's God's Word, the Bible can _____ in our lives like no other book. It can teach us the _____, keep us straight, and _____ us to do what is right. God _____ us greatly through the Bible.

In all of _____, Jesus stands unique; He is one of a kind. We can _____ no one so pure, so kind, so humble, so loving, or so honest. He sets the _____ for morality, for sacrificial giving, for compassion, and for righteousness. He is our only _____, our only _____, our only _____, and our only _____ of eternal life. The apostle Paul said of Jesus, that He "became to us _____ from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord'" (1 Corinthians 1:30-31). What is Jesus to you? How do you _____ Him? Have you set Him apart as _____ in your life? Is He one of a kind in your life? When you boast, do you boast in the Lord?

Our scripture reading is from Acts 4:8-12.

Dr. James Francis wrote this brief essay about Jesus Christ in 1926, "Here is a man who was _____ in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He _____ in a little carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years, He was an itinerant _____. He never _____ a home. He never wrote a _____. He never held an _____. He never had a _____. He never went to _____. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never _____ two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that _____ accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. . . While still a young man, the tide of popular _____ turned against Him. His _____ ran away. One of them _____ Him. He was turned over to His _____. He went through the mockery of a _____. He was nailed upon a _____ between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property that He had on earth – His _____. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed _____ through the pity of a friend. Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and _____ He is the centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress. And I am far within the mark when I

say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not _____ the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that one solitary life.”

Jesus _____ and _____ indeed one of a kind! We can thank God that He came to this _____ and gave Himself that we might have forgiveness, that we might have eternal life, and hope. Because of Jesus, we have reconciliation with the Father. Because we _____ in His name, the Father hears and answers. Because of Jesus, we can become _____ of God and fellow heirs with Christ in heaven. How is Jesus able to do all this?

First, Jesus is unique because He has _____ existed. **Read John 1:1-3.** Some see Jesus as nothing more than a _____; others see Him only as a traveling preacher. The Bible, however, teaches that Jesus was in the beginning and _____ you and me. In Revelation 22:13 Jesus said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the _____ and the _____, the beginning and the end.” The Lord Jesus told the Jews, “Truly, truly, I say to you, _____ Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). In saying this, Jesus revealed His divine _____, that He’s always existed.

Second, Jesus is unique in that He _____ prophecies made hundreds of years before His birth. You cannot find prophecies of other religious _____ like those that are made about Christ. The apostles appealed repeatedly to God’s prophecies found in the Old Testament to show Jesus is the _____ prophet and the Messiah. J. Barton Payne listed _____ Old Testament prophecies about Jesus. Alfred Edersheim, a Jewish Christian scholar, cited _____ Old Testament passages referring to the Messiah. The Jews _____ that a Messiah would come, and Jesus fulfilled those well-known prophecies precisely as no one else could.

The prophets knew that Jesus would be a son of David, that He would be _____ in Bethlehem of Judea, that He would be betrayed by a _____ for thirty pieces of silver, that He would be crucified, that His _____ would not be broken, that soldiers would _____ over His clothes, and that darkness would cover the land. The prophets knew that He would _____ triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey, that He would _____ in parables, and that He would _____ from the dead on the third day. Isaiah, the prophet, knew that He would make His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death.

The Lord Jesus could say, “these are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are _____ about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44). Jesus said the prophets _____ about Him in John 5:39. Peter could claim, “the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus _____” (Acts 3:18). Yes, Jesus

fulfilled the many prophecies given about Him over hundreds of years. Can anyone else make such a claim? No, Jesus is indeed one of a kind.

Third, Jesus is unique in that He was born of a _____. Isaiah made the prophecy about Him in Isaiah 7:14. **Read how the apostle Matthew records its fulfillment in Matthew 1:20-25.** The virgin birth is unique; and only God could make that _____.

Fourth, Jesus is unique in that He never committed a single _____. Peter said, “He committed _____ sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth” (1 Peter 2:22). Jesus could ask, “Which one of you _____ me of sin?” (John 8:46). Could you say that? Jesus could not have sacrificed Himself for _____ sins if He Himself had committed sins. First John 3:5 says, “You know that he appeared in _____ to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.” Because He was sinless, He was the perfect high _____ and the perfect _____. **Read Hebrews 4:15-16 and 7:26-27.**

Fifth, Jesus is unique, because He bodily _____ from the dead. The Lord Jesus confidently predicted “that He must go to Jerusalem and _____ many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be _____” (Matthew 16:21). The eyewitnesses to His death and resurrection say it _____ precisely that way. Through the years, others have predicted that they would rise from the dead, but no one has; no one else has risen, _____ Jesus Christ. One can visit the tombs of the world’s great religious leaders, and those tombs possess the _____ of those leaders. Jesus’ tomb, however, is _____. Jesus did not get resurrected in an emergency _____ after an accident. He wasn’t given a _____ after His heart stopped. No, they took His dead body to the _____. Pilate would not release His body until he was _____ that Jesus was dead. That’s why the soldier pierced His side with the _____. John 19:34 says that when he was pierced with that spear, “immediately blood and water came out,” giving _____ that He had died. There can no _____, He truly was dead. They _____ His body “in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews” (John 19:40). He spent three days in the tomb, but He arose just as He _____.

Both His disciples and His enemies knew the _____ where He was buried. His enemies tried to prevent His disciples from _____ the body and claiming a resurrection. **Read Matthew 27:62-66.** But the guards and the seals, the governor’s seal, couldn’t _____ Jesus from rising from the dead. God planned and ordained His resurrection. David prophesied a thousand years before the time of Christ, “For you will not abandon my _____ to Sheol, or let your holy one _____ corruption” (Psalm 16:10). The apostle Peter cited this passage and declared, “God raised Him up again, putting an _____ to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power” (Acts 2:24). Again, Peter said of David, “he

foresaw and _____ about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God _____ up, and of that we are all, (that is all the apostles), witnesses” (Acts 2:31-32).

Jesus had _____. He appeared on twelve occasions to His _____. Paul said, “He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at _____, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:6). His disciples were _____ at first, and some had hardened their hearts in unbelief. Acts 1:3 says Jesus “presented Himself _____ after His suffering, by many convincing _____, appearing to them over a period of forty days.” They _____ Him, heard Him, touched Him, and _____ with Him. In being resurrected like this, Jesus is one of a kind. These disciples who could hardly believe at first, were _____ and courageous after the forty days. They told the _____ of His resurrection again and again in spite of all the opposition and persecution.

Some skeptics claim Jesus wasn't the _____ god that died and was resurrected. They say Jesus actually _____ this idea from some pagan gods. The problem with this claim is that the reports of pagan gods dying and rising from the dead can only be found _____ the first century. While there are reports of dying and rising gods among the pagan religions, there are no reports of someone dying for the _____ of mankind and rising up _____ like Jesus did. What we do find is pagan religions talking about the changing _____ of winter to spring being like a resurrection. No, the _____ story is indeed unique; and there simply is no one like Jesus Christ.

Why does this matter? Because the Lord Jesus Christ is the one and _____ Son of God, who can _____ our souls. Everything in history before Jesus points _____ to Him, and our calendars point _____ to Him. He is Lord of all _____, of all _____, of all tongues and of all _____. He is indeed one of a kind. We must place our _____ and _____ in Jesus.

Read what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

The word “gospel” means good news, and _____ Jesus did is good news for you and me. He died for our _____; He arose so that we might have _____. Like the Christians of old, we need to receive the _____, believe it, and hold fast to it. The gospel has the _____ to save you, and if you receive and obey it, it can. Put your _____ in Jesus, and in His Word. Repent of your _____ and begin following the Christ. Confess your faith in the Lord Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. And be _____ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you're baptized into Christ, according to Romans 6:3-7, you'll be _____ with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Then you'll be raised with Him to walk in _____ of life, free from sin, and with the hope of eternal life. No one can _____ you that life but Jesus. Follow Him; serve Him! And do it today!