

## *Like None Other*

**W**hat makes a man great? Power? Wisdom? Intellect? Passion? The ability to motivate others? And, are leaders born or made? These are age-old questions. Yet, we readily recognize great men when we see them, don't we?

Some times it takes the greatest of men to see true greatness in others. The military genius, Napoleon Bonaparte, said these things about Jesus:

*Everything in him astonishes me. His spirit overawes me, and his will confounds me. Between him and whoever else in the world there is no possible term of comparison. He is truly a being by himself. His ideas and his sentiment, the truth which he announces, his manner of convincing, are not explained either by human organization or by the nature of things.*

*His birth, and the history of his life; the profundity of his doctrine, which grapples the mightiest difficulties, and which is of those difficulties the most admirable solution; his gospel, his apparition, his empire, his march across the ages and the realms—everything is to me a prodigy, a mystery insoluble, which plunges me into reveries which I cannot escape; a mystery which is there before my eyes; a mystery which I can neither deny or explain....*

*His religion is a revelation from an intelligence which certainly is not that of man. There is there a profound originality which has created a series of words and maxims before unknown. Jesus borrowed nothing from our science. One can absolutely*

*find nowhere, but in him alone, the imitation of the example of his life. He is not a philosopher, since he advanced by miracles; and, from the commencement, his disciples worshipped him. He persuaded them far more by an appeal to the heart than by any display of method or of logic. Neither did he impose on them any preliminary studies, or any knowledge of letters. All his religion consists in believing.*

*In fact, the sciences and philosophy avail nothing for salvation; and Jesus came into the world to reveal the mysteries of heaven and the laws of the spirit. He also has nothing to do but with the soul; and to that alone he brings his gospel. The soul is sufficient for him, as he is sufficient for the soul. Before him, the soul was nothing. Matter and time were masters of the world. At his voice, everything returns to order. Science and philosophy become secondary. The soul has reconquered its sovereignty. All scholastic scaffolding falls as an edifice ruined, before one single word—faith.*

Interesting words from the Emperor, huh? Napoleon lived at a time when human achievements in science, philosophy, and religion were really taking deep root in the pride of men. It was an “age of enlightenment” for mankind, but it was also an age in which mankind began to forget about God. Faith left mankind's heart and entered his mind... and was sadly lost. Science became man's god. And philosophy man's crowning jewel. We see the full fruit of that worldview today, and it is rotten. I am amazed how well Napoleon saw through the humanistic pride of his own day and stood in faith's simple awe of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “*Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.... We preach Christ and Him crucified!... For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.*” (1 Corinthians 1).

*Scott*