

The Incomparable Jesus

Jesus soars infinitely above and beyond anyone else who has ever lived. The greatest of men pale in comparison to the Suffering Servant Messiah. He is incomparable. He is the Son of Man and the Son of God.

Consider these words from Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), wherein he compares the great Greek philosopher Socrates with the humble Lord Jesus.

What an infinite disproportion there is between them! Socrates, dying without pain or ignominy, easily supported his character to the last; and, if this easy death had not crowned his life, it might have been doubted whether Socrates, with all his wisdom, was anything more than a mere sophist. He invented, it is said, the theory of ethics. Others, however, had before put them into practice: he had only to say, therefore, what they had done, and to reduce their examples to precepts. Aristides had just before Socrates defined justice. Leonides had given up his life for his country before Socrates declared patriotism to be a duty. The Spartans were a sober people before Socrates recommended sobriety. Before he had even defined virtue, Greece abounded in virtuous men.

But where could Jesus learn, among his contemporaries, that pure and sublime morality of which he only has given

us both precept and example? The greatest wisdom was made known among the most bigoted fanaticism; and the simplicity of the most heroic virtues did honor to the vilest people on earth.

The death of Socrates, peacefully philosophizing among friends, appears the most agreeable that one could wish: that of Jesus, expiring in agonies, abused, insulted, and accused by a whole nation, is the most horrible that one could fear. Socrates, indeed, in receiving the cup of poison, blessed the weeping executioner who administered it; but Jesus, amidst excruciating tortures, prayed for his merciless tormentors.

"Yes, if the life and death of Socrates were those of a sage, the life and death of Jesus are those of a God."

There are no others like Jesus. He stands alone as the One and Only Son of God. He is our perfect Savior. He is our God. Let us hear the opening words of the book of Hebrews:

"In the past God has spoken to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He created the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs."

Thank you, Lord Jesus!

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