

1. The humanity of Jesus

A Mediterranean Jew living under Roman rule in Palestine (Luke 3:1-2)
A native of Nazareth in Galilee – a small town near Capernaum (Luke 2:1-4)
Oldest son of Joseph and Mary; had a number of siblings (Mark 3:32)
Experienced both birth and death, like any mortal (Luke 2:6-7; 23:46)
In between, knew hunger and sorrow, anger and pain (Mark 11:15-19)
Had a few close friends (Luke 8:1-3; John 11:1-44 - Mary, Martha, and Lazarus)
Enjoyed being with people, especially at dinner parties (Matt. 9:10-13)
An expert in Jewish law (Torah), but not a member of any Jewish sect (Mark 11:27-33)
A regular participant in both Temple and synagogue services (Luke 4:16; John 5:1-11)
Lived a relatively short life-span and died an ‘enemy of the State’

2. The divinity of Jesus

Was the Son of Man (Mark 2:10; 9:31)
Was the Son of God (Mark 3:11; 15:39)
Was the Word, through whom the world was created (John 1:1-4)
One of the Trinity, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 17:1-5; 2 Cor. 13:13)
Was raised by God the Father from the dead (Acts 2:22-24)
Now seated at God’s right hand, poised to return to earth at the End (Acts 1:1-11)

3. The mission of Jesus

Sent by the Father to announce the arrival of the Kingdom of God. (Mark 1:14)
Message was “good news” (gospel) to the world (Mark 1:14)
Preceded by the Old Testament prophets and by John the Baptizer (Mark 1:2-8)
Was an itinerant evangelist who had no permanent ‘home base’ (Matt. 8:20)
Selected twelve ‘special assistants’ (apostles) to work with him (Luke 6:12-16)
Carried out the mission through persuasion, not coercion
Had neither a militia nor even a bodyguard (John 18:10-11)
Was a “servant” (Mark 10:45), and called his followers to be servants (Mark 9:35)

4. The message of Jesus

God’s acceptance of all people:
Sick and ‘unclean’ persons; women and children; non-Jews; “sinners”
(Luke 17:11-19; 18:15-17; 19:1-10; Matt. 15:21-28)
God’s expectation of love – loyalty and devotion to Him; genuine care for others
(Luke 10:25-28; Matt. 5:43-48)
Forgiveness was expected (Matt. 6:12-15) and demonstrated (Luke 23:24)

5. The charge of Jesus: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

Given by the one who is now both “Lord” and “Christ” (John 20:31; Acts 2:36)

“We are not the only Christians; we are Christians only”