

Reading by Musa: Acts 1:11 (NIV)

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

8. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The title of this message today is “This Same Jesus”. This is a vast Biblical truth - we could for example go through all the I AM titles of our Lord Jesus beginning at Exodus 3. But in this sermon we’ll look very briefly at This Same Jesus under 5 different titles, and end with a personal testimony to His immutability.

1. This same Jesus is the Source of Man

John 1:3-4 (NIV)

3. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

4. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

In the beginning the Lord Jesus bent down to make us little people in His image and after His likeness. Then Satan came into the unspoilt garden to rob Adam and Eve of Christ’s likeness.

God immediately promised mankind His salvation through the *offspring of the woman!* (**Gen 3:15** NIV). Jesus would come Himself as the second Adam to reverse the fall of man and the marring in man of Jesus’ likeness.

2. This Same Jesus is the Son of Man

The Lord Jesus, man’s source, became the *offspring of a humble woman*. Jesus lived in poverty, was a refugee in Egypt as a child, and was reared in the obscure village called Nazareth. In infancy He frightened a king, at 12 years old He startled doctors of the law. He subjected Himself to Mary and Joseph and all the hardships and temptations of life in a fallen world.

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to empathise (co-suffer - to suffer with) with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet He did not sin.

Hebrews 2:18 (NIV)

Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

3. This Same Jesus who is the Source and the Son of Man is the Servant of Man

First let’s look into His heart:

Matt 11:29 (NKJV)

“.....learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Dane Ortland in his wonderful book “Gentle and Lowly” concludes from Christ’s gentle heart that *“He is the most understanding Person in the universe”*. *The posture most natural to Him is not a pointed finger but open arms.* On the word *lowly* Dane Ortland says *“the point in saying that Jesus is lowly, is that He is accessible. For all His resplendent glory and dazzling holiness, His supreme uniqueness and otherness, no one in human history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ.”*

Please also note that this same gentle and lowly Jesus can be very sinlessly and selflessly angry with those for example who offend children, and with religious self-righteous elite and with every evil and demon that wreck lives. When He returns **2 These 1:8-10** tells us it will be *in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God , and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the `Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe....*

His gentle and lowly heart, His compassionate and loving heart, and His righteous and holy heart have never changed!

This was His mission statement:

Mark 10:45

45. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

He served through His teaching, preaching and ministry. Jesus deliberately and tenderly touched lepers - people who were considered physically and ceremonially contaminated but who were desperate for human contact..... and He healed them; He reached out to and even ate with tax collectors and notorious sinners and prostitutes to win them, save them and transform them. In the famous account of the woman caught in adultery, Jesus says to her, in one breath, *“Neither do I condemn you,”* and in the next breath, *“Go now and leave your life of sin”* (**John 8:11** NIV). Here we see the odd but brilliant coming together of both truth and love, both a passion for justice and a commitment to mercy. He is full of grace and truth (**John 1:14**)

He also ate repeatedly with the religious elite showing that He was not bigoted toward the bigoted. And He did good on the Sabbath!

He did not fear that sinners would contaminate Him; rather, He expected that His wholesome love would infect and change them, and again and again this

is what happened. And again and again that's what still happens - for He is "This Same Jesus".

He is still the Servant of Man for He listens to our prayers and He graciously answers many of them! He washed His disciples feet and He still does. He has never changed His heart or His mission statement and He is always interceding for us.

4. This Same Jesus - the Source, Son and Servant is the Saviour of Man Matthew 1:21

You shall call His name Jesus (Yeshua = salvation - His name is found throughout the OT), for He will save His people from their sins.

John 1:29

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

In his classic book "The Cross of Christ", John Stott explains the crucifixion of our Saviour this way:

The cross of Christ consisted of the combination of inflexible righteousness, with its penalties, and transcendent love with its humility and grace. God in His mercy towards sinful mankind wanted to forgive them. God in His holiness wanted to forgive them righteously by not in any way condoning their sin. So He directed against His very own self the righteous anger we sinners deserved. He received our punishment so that we sinners could receive His pardon. He wore God's wrath against sin and pride that we might wear God's righteousness and humility.

Jesus cried out in **John 19:30** "It is finished" which can be translated "It is fully paid" or "It is completely complete". God is propitiated (satisfied) and our guilt is expiated or cleared!

Before we see the crucifixion as something God in His humility did for us (this will lead us to faith in His finished work, worship and adoration) we need to see it as something we in our pride did to Him (leading us to humble ourselves in heartbroken repentance).

5. This Same Jesus - Source, Son, Servant, Saviour is the Sovereign of Man

The conclusion of Peter's first sermon was:

Acts 2:36

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made **this Jesus**, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Phil 2:8-11

8. And being found in appearance as a man, He became obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

9. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10. that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11. and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

This same Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords! Still the winds and the waves obey Him. He still can multiply the loaves and fish and He still can and indeed will raise the dead to life. He is Sovereign of Man! He is Lord of all!

*Oh how sweet the glorious message
Simple faith may claim;
Yesterday, today, forever
Jesus is the Same
Still He loves to save the sinful
Heal the sick and lame:
Cheer the mourner, still the tempest,
Glory to His Name!*

*Yesterday, today, forever,
Jesus is the same.
All may change but Jesus never!
Glory to His Name (x3)
All may change but Jesus never!
Glory to His Name*

*As of old He walked to Emmaus
With them to abide;
So through all life's way He walketh,
Ever near our side.
Soon again shall we behold Him,
Hasten, Lord, the day
But 'twill still be "**this same Jesus**"
As He went away!*

Story of Mr Mitchel and appeal. 'Still He loves to save the sinful.....'