

Study Three



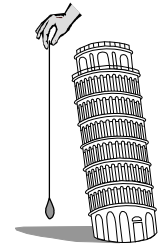
What Was Jesus Like?

Please write your name above and fill in the Bible references in the spaces provided.

He Was Totally Sinless

The person God has appointed to judge the thoughts, words, and actions of men must be sinless. Everything we know about Jesus points to His perfection.¹ His life was as straight as a builder's plumb line and a measure of how upright (how good) we should be.

In this study we shall see how Jesus lived up to the impossibly high standards of His own teaching. This makes His claim to be the world's Judge a valid one (Study 2). But it also means that Jesus is infinitely kind and compassionate, not only to the sick but *also* to the sinful!



A perfectly upright life

JOHN THE BAPTIST KNEW JESUS WAS SINLESS

John came to prepare people for Jesus, and to baptise those who turned from their sin. He said he was unworthy to even undo the shoelaces of Jesus. This was not because John was such a bad person, but because Jesus was such a good one. **Look up Mark 1:7**

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John did not want to baptise Jesus, as he knew He had no sin to turn from.²

GOD DECLARED JESUS TO BE SINLESS

Jesus is the only person to have entirely pleased God. No one else was publicly declared from Heaven to be pleasing to Him. When Jesus was baptised, God openly announced that He was *very* pleased with Jesus.

Look up Mark 1:11

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God later made a similar declaration concerning His Son.³ A person must be very pure to please an all-holy God!

Historic Note
John the Baptist looked very different to Jesus. He wore rough clothes and ate locusts & wild honey.

Only Jesus completely pleased God

¹ John 3:5.

² Matthew 3:13-14.

³ Matthew 17:5.

NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS SAY JESUS WAS SINLESS

He never yielded to temptation

Jesus knew the power of temptation but He never gave way to it. If He had, He would have been a sinner like us. **Look up Hebrews 4:15**

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The perfection of Jesus showed up the imperfection of others. Even Peter (His disciple) felt an overpowering sense of his own sinfulness in the presence of Jesus.⁴ Jesus “knew no sin”.⁵ Consider the evidence for this in the record of His life that follows.



The loving hand

He Lived Up To His Own Teaching

Do you remember how Jesus said we should *love* God and *love* each other? He said we should love others like we love ourselves.⁶ He also said we should love our enemies – the hardest thing of all to do! Though this standard is impossible for us, Jesus achieved it!

JESUS LOVED GOD WITH ALL HIS BEING

When the thought of suffering overwhelmed Jesus, He submitted His own will to that of His Father in Heaven. **Look up Luke 22:42**

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JESUS LOVED OTHERS AS HE LOVED HIMSELF

He thought only of others

Jesus was totally selfless. When He was dying on the cross, Jesus thought of others not Himself. Though in terrible pain He thinks of His mother, and asks a disciple to look after her. Read John 19:26-27. **Write out verse 27**

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JESUS LOVED HIS ENEMIES

When they were doing their worst to hurt Him on the cross, Jesus asked God to forgive them – something He was ready to do Himself.

Look up Luke 23:34

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How hard we find it to love our *friends!*

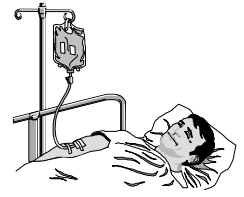
⁴ Luke 5:8. He said “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:21.

⁶ Matthew 22:39.

He Was Full Of Compassion

Most of the miracles Jesus did were motivated by compassion, as we have seen (Study 1). His sympathetic heart felt for others in their need, and He healed them.



He was moved by sickness

CONSIDER HIS COMPASSION FOR THE MANY

Jesus came to preach the Gospel. But the sight of so many sick people moved Him deeply, so He healed all who were brought to Him.⁷

Look up Matthew 14:14

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CONSIDER HIS COMPASSION FOR JUST TWO

Blind people were often forced to beg for a living. Their plight touched the heart of Jesus and moved Him to pity. **Look up Matthew 20:34**

He gave eyesight to the blind

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There are many other examples of Jesus' compassion for the sick. He also had compassion on the hungry⁸ and distressed.⁹

He Was Full Of Compassion For Sinners

Think of a wind so powerful that it is difficult to remain upright. This is a picture of temptation. Temptation is like a forceful wind. Jesus knew the power of temptation, and the misery into which sin could drag a person. Though Jesus Himself had never sinned, He had compassion on those who had.



Temptation is like a forceful wind

Jesus ate with some of the worst people of His day. Some despised Him for being so friendly to sinners, but they failed to realise they were sinners themselves.¹⁰

JESUS WENT TO SINNERS

It was *because* Jesus was perfect that He loved sinners more than we would, or could. Jesus was criticised for welcoming sinners. **Look up Luke 15:2**

Perfect love

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⁷ Matthew 4:23-24 and 8:16-17.

⁸ Mark 8:2-3.

⁹ Matthew 9:36, and read Luke 7:11-15 for another example of Jesus' compassion.

¹⁰ Matthew 11:19.

He loved sinners, not sin

It was *because* Jesus knew sin could wreck lives and ruin people that He loved sinners so much. He also knew it would exclude them from Heaven. He was full of love for sinners or as the Bible says, “full of grace”.

Look up John 1:14

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SINNERS FELT DRAWN TO JESUS

Those who recognised their sin were attracted to Him because they felt His love for them. Read Luke 7:37-38. **Write out verse 37**

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He loved the unlovely.

We saw earlier that Jesus came to save those who were “lost” (Study 2). The footnote below gives more examples of sinners that were saved by Jesus.¹¹

and FINALLY

We cannot end this study of the character of Jesus without mentioning His courage. In the face of strong opposition, He was totally fearless. This is just another side of His perfection. A timid and frightened man is not a perfect one.

Jesus was fearless

Jesus showed great courage when He rebuked the leaders of His day,¹² drove out those who abused God’s Temple,¹³ and calmly stood before the Roman governor at His condemnation.¹⁴

Jesus’ clash with the authorities was one of the reasons, humanly speaking, for His death (next study).

¹¹ Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13); Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10); the dying thief (Luke 23:39-43).

¹² Luke 11:42-54.

¹³ Mark 11:15-19.

¹⁴ John 19:5-11.