

What can be Accomplished in a Three-Year Ministry?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. From a non-religious, historical viewpoint, Jesus was ordinary.
 - 1. He was born in humble circumstances - Luke 2:7
 - 2. He never became wealthy or politically powerful - Matt 8:20; John 18:36
 - 3. He was not unusually attractive - Isa. 53:2
 - 4. He made a lot of influential enemies - Matt. 22:15-16, 23
 - 5. He lost most of His supporters during His ministry and at His crucifixion.
 - a. John 6:66; Matt. 26:56
 - 6. His immediate family did not appreciate Him - John 7:5
- B. What did He do in three year ministry to make Him the greatest being to have ever walked the face of the earth?

I. JESUS IS THE DEFINITIVE SACRIFICE

- A. Jesus lived before He came to earth - John 8:58, 1:1
 - 1. Jesus enjoyed all the splendor of heaven as God - Phil. 2:7-8
 - 2. Jesus became a sin offering for the sins of all humankind.
 - a. Heb. 10:10, 12, 14; Matt. 26:28; John 1:29
- B. All the great men of the world combined could not help humankind with sin.

II. JESUS IS THE CONSUMMATE MEDIATOR

- A. A mediator acts in behalf of two parties, in this case God and man.
 - 1. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man - 1Tim. 2:5
- B. Jesus is particularly qualified to be Mediator, as He is both God and man.
 - 1. Heb. 1:8
- C. Jesus is the only one capable of doing this - John 14:6

III. JESUS IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE

- A. Example is from the Greek hupogrammos - "from hupographo; to write under, to trace letters for copying by scholars" (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words).
 - 1. Jesus is the perfect writing that we try to copy - 1Peter 2:21
- B. Jesus is our example.
 - 1. In prayer - Luke 6:12
 - 2. In standing for truth - Matt. 4: 4, 7, 10
 - 3. In correcting sinners - Matt. 23:14
 - 4. In service - John 13:15
 - 5. In keeping God's commandments - John 4:34

IV. JESUS IS THE GREATEST TEACHER

- A. Jesus is the world's greatest teacher - Matt. 5:2, 7:28-29
- B. To go beyond Jesus' teaching is to forfeit our relationship with God - 2John 9
- C. Jesus' teaching is also complete, making all other teaching unnecessary and forbidden - 2John 10-11; Gal. 1:6-10
- D. He completed His teaching through His apostles - 1Cor. 14:37; John 16:13-14

V. JESUS CREATED DIVISION

- A. Many do not think of Jesus as One who generated division - Matt. 10:34
 - 1. Jesus would not compromise doctrinally - John 9:16; 1Cor. 11:19

VI. JESUS ESTABLISHED HIS KINGDOM

- A. The Kingdom was prophesied years before Jesus' advent into this world.
 - 1. Dan. 2:44; Gal. 4:4
- B. Jesus promised to build His church and kept His promise.
 - 1. Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:13
- C. Jesus never promised a secular kingdom - John 18:36-37

VII. JESUS WAS THE CONDUIT OF GOD'S GRACE TO HUMANKIND

- A. Grace came by Jesus - John 1:17, 10:10
 - 1. Eternal life through salvation is not unconditional. If it were, everyone would be saved - Matt. 7:13-14
- B. The conditions of grace and salvation must be met.
 - 1. One MUST believe - John 8:24
 - 2. One MUST turn from his sins - Acts 17:30-31
 - 3. One MUST declare his faith - Rom. 10:9-10
 - 4. One MUST be baptized - Acts 2:38
 - 5. One MUST live faithful to God - Rev. 2:10

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus was not just an ordinary man; He was God with us.
 - 1. Matt. 1:23; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:1-3
- B. Jesus did more in three years than all of humankind accomplished in all of the years of our existence in this world.
- C. No man in a dozen lifetimes could undertake and complete one of Jesus' unparalleled accomplishments.