

a peer in history. There is not another character that can be placed alongside of Him. Not only is this true in the realm of history, it is even true in the realm of literature. No one has even imagined a character which for perfection of being, for complete naturalness and yet for supreme excellence, could be put alongside the character that we find portrayed in the gospels, the character of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But it is impossible logically to accept Jesus simply as a great man and a wonderful teacher. It is impossible because His teachings contain such clear statements of His own claim to be far more than a teacher. He claims actually to be the very God who created the universe.

You remember that Jesus said in Matt. 26:64: "Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of God and coming in the clouds of heaven." And in Matt. 28:18, He said: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Mr. Steele:--Yes, and in John 8:58, He said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." And in John 14:9, He said: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

Dr. MacRae:--Exactly! Jesus declared Himself to be God. Such claims in the mouth of anyone else would sound like the ravings of a maniac; in the mouth of such a wonderful character as Jesus, they seem perfectly natural. Yet we must recognize that if they are not true, then He is not the greatest character that the world has ever seen, but merely a ridiculous idiot, with crazy delusions of grandeur. It is simply impossible to think of such a character as Jesus Christ as one who had an utterly false idea about Himself and His relation to the world. He is either the God of the universe, or He is what hardly anybody would dare to suggest Him to be, a poor demented soul.

Mr. Steele:--The Bible teaches that Jesus is indeed God the creator of the universe. Does it also teach that He was a real man?

Dr. MacRae:--Yes, indeed. Luke 2:52 says that the child Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature, and favour with God and man." Hebrews 2:16-17 says: "For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." Hebrews 4:15 says: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." The account of His birth, of the Annunciation to the Shepherds, of the coming of the Wise Men, of His going with His parents to the Temple in Jerusalem, all of these stand among the beautiful human touches in the world's history. Little children are thrilled to read the story of Jesus Christ in the manger, and of the shepherds' coming to see Him. All through His ministry His favorite term for Himself was "the Son of man." He delighted to stress His oneness with humanity.

Jesus Christ is the very ideal of humanity, a true man in every sense, and yet He is actually the God who created the universe. This is a miracle which is unique in the world's history, the miracle of the God-man.

Isaiah predicted this duality in the nature of the coming Messiah when he said,

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