



Vintage Jesus Notes

Chapter 2 - How Human was Jesus?



Chapter Summary

Jesus was fully man, that means he did man things, he worked as a carpenter, wasn't extraordinary looking, told jokes, got angry, went to the bathroom, laughed and wept. We don't want to under emphasize his humanity, we want a biblical view of who Jesus was, how he acted and behaved in his humanity. Jesus lived the perfect human life, He is our model of how to live this life, we should study studiously the life of Jesus to know how to navigate our lives.

By the end of this chapter we should be able to see from a biblical perspective how Jesus walked in full humanity and divinity.

You can visit the Vintage Jesus website to see videos and audio of this series:

<http://relit.org/vintagejesus/downloads.php>



Notes

Jesus was a man's man

1. Jesus was a construction worker (Mark 6:3)
2. Jesus was a Nazarene not a Nazirite
 - 2.1. He did not take the Nazirite vow which says no alcohol and you don't cut your hair (like Sampson)
 - 2.1.1. This may be the confusion leading to portrayals of Jesus as a feminine, long haired model
 - 2.2. We know Jesus drank alcohol and didn't like men looking like ladies (1 Corinthians 11:14-15)
 - 2.3. He was not an especially attractive man (Isaiah 53:2)
3. Entire books of the bible are written to defend Jesus' humanity (1 John)

Jesus had normal life events

1. Born of a woman (Galations 4:4)
2. Had a normal body of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39)
3. Grew up as a boy (Luke 2:52)
4. Had a family (Matthew 13:54-58)
5. Obeyed his parents (Luke 2:51)
6. Worshiped God (Luke 4:16)
7. Prayed (Mark 1:35)
8. Worked as a carpenter (Mark 6:3)
9. Got hungry (Matthew 4:2) and thirsty (John 4:7)
10. Asked for information (Mark 9:16-21)
11. Was stressed (John 13:21)



12. Was astonished (Mark 6:6)
13. Was happy (Luke 10:21-24)
14. Told jokes (Matthew 7:6, Matthew 23:23-25, Mark 4:21)
15. Had compassion (Mark 1:41)
16. Had male and female friends he loves (John 11:3-5)
17. Gave encouraging compliments (Mark 12:41-44)
18. Loved children (Matthew 19:13-15)
19. Celebrated holidays (Luke 2:41)
20. Went to parties (Matthew 11:19)
21. Loved his mom (John 19:26-27)

Jesus was full human but not merely human

1. The divinity and humanity of Christ is a complex point of theology and many great writers have written on it
 - 1.1. Puritan Philip Brooks, "Jesus Christ, the condescension of divinity and the exaltation of humanity."
 - 1.2. Saint Athanasius of Alexandria, "He became what we are that he might make us who he is."
2. 2 common ways we can error on this theological point
 - 2.1. deny the full divinity of Jesus in favor of his humanity
 - 2.2. deny the full humanity of Jesus in favor of his divinity

Denial of full divinity

3. The following heretics have historically denied Jesus' full divinity
 - 3.1. Ebionites
 - 3.2. Dynamic Monarchianists
 - 3.3. Nestorians
 - 3.4. Modalists
 - 3.5. Sabellianists



- 3.6. Unitarians
 - 3.7. Social Gospel proponents
 - 3.8. “death of God” theologians
 - 3.9. Arians
 - 3.10. Jehovah’s Witnesses (Jesus really is the archangel Michael and not equal to God)
 - 3.11. Mormons (Jesus was born as a spirit child of he Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother, is the brother of Lucifer and became a god but whose deity is no more unique than many people’s)
 - 3.12. functionalists
 - 3.13. Adoptionists
 - 3.14. Kenotics
 - 3.15. Apollinarians
 - 3.16. Da Vinci Code
 - 3.17. some new agers think Jesus was half man half alien
 - 3.18. Oneness Pentecostals teach there is no trinity but rather that Jesus appears in the roles of the trinity
4. Jesus is God man, fully God, Immanuel(God with us), God come in the flesh
 - 4.1. This is opposite to many religions that believe men and/or women can become God or at least gods. This was Satan’s first lie
 - 4.2. Theologian Donald Bloesch says, “*Jesus therefore differs from other human beings in kind, not simply in degree*”

Denial of full humanity

1. The following heretics have historically denied Jesus’ full humanity
 - 1.1. Docetists
 - 1.2. Gnostics
 - 1.3. Modal Monarchianists
 - 1.4. Apollinarian Paulicians



- 1.5. Monophysitists
- 1.6. New agers
- 1.7. Eutychians
2. Those who most commonly deny the full humanity of Jesus are hardcore Protestant Christian Fundamentalists. They believe Jesus was not tempted (James 1:13) but was rather faking it. The problem with this is if we believe Jesus was “overwhelmed” by divinity the he wasn’t fully human and cannot be our mediator. (1 Timothy 2:5)
3. In 451 A.D. the Council of Chalcedon met to clarify the confusion and issues the *Chalcedonian Creed*. In sum the creed states that Jesus Christ is one person with two natures (human and divine) who is both fully man and fully God. The theological term for this is *hypostatic union* which is taken from the greek word *hypostasis* for “person”
4. Augustine explained hypostatic union well by stating, “Christ added to himself which he was not, he did not lose was he was.”
5. God became the image of God for our salvation (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Christ laid aside the independent exercise of his divine attributes

1. Jesus didn’t continually exhibit incommunicable attributes like immortality, omniscience, omnipresence except at the leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus remained full God and fully man, maintained all of his divine attributes and did avail himself of these on occasion.
 - 2.1. forgave sin (Mark 2:1-7)
 - 2.2. omnipresence (Matthew 28:20)
 - 2.3. creator (John 1:3)
 - 2.4. savior (Romans 10:9-13)
 - 2.5. only God (Philippians 2:5-11)
3. Jesus never ceased to be fully God

Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit

1. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and named “Christ” which means anointed by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1-2)
2. Baptized people in the name of the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16)
3. Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at his own baptism (Luke 3:21-22)



4. Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit” and “led by the Spirit” (Luke 4:1-2)
5. Declared that the “Spirit of the Lord is upon me” (Luke 4:18)
6. “rejoiced in the Holy Spirit” (Luke 10:21)
7. Jesus promised that God the Father would “give the Holy Spirit to those who asked him” (Luke 11:13)
8. Jesus tells the disciples to wait to start their ministry until the Holy Spirit came and empowered them (Acts 1)
 - 8.1. The Holy Spirit descended upon the early Christians just as had descended upon Jesus (Acts 2)
 - 8.2. This shows that followers of Christ are able to live a life like Jesus (although imperfect) through the same Holy Spirit that enabled and empowered Jesus

Jesus was funny

1. Famous atheist Frederick Nietzsche said, “*Would that [Jesus] had remained in the wilderness and far from the good and just! Perhaps he would have learned to live and love the earth--and laughter too.*”
2. Jesus was a cool guy cause he got invited to a lot of parties with wild people and crowds followed him around cause they enjoyed his company
3. How could Jesus be fully human and not tell a joke? (Ecclesiastes 3:4 “*there is a time to laugh*”)
4. Elton Trueblood said, “*There are numerous passages...which are practically incomprehensible when regarded as sober prose, but which are luminous once we become liberated from the gratuitous assumption that Jesus never joked...Once we realize that Christ was not always engaged in pious talk, we have made an enormous step on the road to understanding.*”
5. The most characteristic form of Jesus’ humor was the preposterous exaggeration. (Matthew 19:23-24)
6. Jesus humor was biting and harsh especially when directed at the Pharisees
 - 6.1. called them a bag of snakes (Matthew 23:33)
 - 6.2. said their moms had shagged the devil (John 8:44)
 - 6.3. mocked them for tithing out of their spice rack (Luke 11:42)
7. Sometimes the best way to handle self-righteous people is to make fun of them
 - 7.1. Jesus made fun of how some people pray (Matthew 6:5) and fast (Matthew 6:16)



Jesus was passionate

1. Most Christians have a very gentle, never disturbed, sheep raising, flower picking image of Jesus
2. The Bible says the God created us in his image, and it seems we like to return the favor
3. And early church leader Marcion didn't like the moody, angry, violent God of the Old Testament so he launched a campaign to remove it and put a few revisions in the New Testament. He was later condemned as a heretic.
4. The gospel of Mark reveals Jesus was not just the *gentle, meek and mild* Jesus
 - 4.1. Chapter 1
 - 4.1.1. Jesus yells at strangers to repent of their sins
 - 4.1.2. Jesus orders some guys to quit their jobs and follow him
 - 4.1.3. Jesus tells a demon to shut up and heals a leper only to tell him to shut up too
 - 4.2. Chapter 2
 - 4.2.1. Jesus picks a fight with some well mannered religious types
 - 4.2.2. Jesus does the equivalent to breaking into a church on a Sunday morning to make a sandwich with the communion bread because he was hungry
 - 4.3. Chapter 3
 - 4.3.1. Jesus gets angry and also grieves
 - 4.3.2. Jesus ignores his own mom which threw Focus on the Hebrew Family into a tizzy
 - 4.4. Chapter 4
 - 4.4.1. Jesus rebukes the wind
 - 4.5. Chapter 5
 - 4.5.1. Jesus kills 2,000 pigs sending the animal rights bloggers into a panic
 - 4.6. Chapter 6
 - 4.6.1. Jesus offends some people and apparently needs sensitivity training
 - 4.7. Chapter 7



- 4.7.1. religious types have some questions and he calls them "hypocrites" and goes on a lengthy tirade about them...how very intolerant
- 4.8. Chapter 8
 - 4.8.1. Jesus sighs in frustration, spits on a handicapped guy and calls Peter "Satan"
- 4.9. Chapter 9
 - 4.9.1. Jesus gets sick of folks and asks "How long do I have to put up with you?" That's just before telling some other people to cut off their hands and feet and to gouge their eyes out
- 4.10. Chapter 10
 - 4.10.1. Jesus tells a rich guy to sell all his stuff and give it to the poor, which must have frustrated the local prosperity-theology luncheon for pastors who were hoping for a bling Christ
- 4.11. Chapter 11
 - 4.11.1. Jesus has one of his guys take a donkey with out asking like some kleptomaniac donkey-lifter, proceeds to curse a fig tree which upsets the environmentalists
- 4.12. Chapter 12
 - 4.12.1. Jesus tells people they are wrong and don't know their bibles
 - 4.12.2. Jesus tells some Sunday school teachers they are going to hell which made the universalist Emergent folks immediately engage in a conversation about the mythology of hell and finger paint about the emotional wounds caused by his words
- 4.13. Chapter 13
 - 4.13.1. Jesus threatens to destroy the temple
- 4.14. Chapter 14
 - 4.14.1. Jesus yells at his friends for taking a nap late at night after running them all over the place for about 3 years
- 4.15. Chapter 15
 - 4.15.1. the religious folk kill him for being like that which seems fine to everyone except a few women
- 4.16. Chapter 16



- 4.16.1. story ends with Jesus alive again and the trembling, astonished, and frightened disciples getting it and heading out to handle the snakes while they go to offend the whole world with the gospel

Jesus was bummed

1. Isaiah promised that Jesus would be “*despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief*” (Isaiah 53:3)
2. God chose to come to our fallen, sick, twisted state and live with us and suffer with us. We spend our lives trying to avoid it.
3. Here are examples of Jesus living a painful life
 - 3.1. Jesus was tempted by the devil himself (Matthew 4:1-10)
 - 3.2. Jesus had money troubles
 - 3.2.1. was poor (2 Corinthians 8:9)
 - 3.2.2. got ripped off (John 12:6)
 - 3.2.3. trouble paying his taxes (Matthew 17:27)
 - 3.2.4. was homeless (Matthew 8:20)
 - 3.3. People spread rumors about Jesus. (Matthew 26:57-60)
 - 3.4. Jesus was physically abused. (Matthew 26:67-68)
 - 3.5. Jesus was mocked and spat upon. (Matthew 27:27-31)
 - 3.6. Jesus was continuously messed with by religious neat-niks. (Matthew 9:11)
 - 3.7. Jesus had days marked with loneliness (Mark 14:32-34, Mark 15:34), deep sorrow (Matthew 26:37), exhaustion (Matthew 8:24) and weeping. (Luke 19:41)
 - 3.8. Jesus’ friends were of no help in times of crisis (Matthew 26:36-46). They betrayed him (Matthew 26:47-50), and turned their back on him. (Matthew 26:69-75)
 - 3.9. Jesus’ family thought he was a nut job. (Mark 3:21)
 - 3.10. Jesus turned to God, but he did not have all his prayers answered as he requested. (Matthew 26:42)
 - 3.11. Jesus bled. (Luke 22:44)
 - 3.12. Jesus died. (Luke 23:46)



- 3.13. Jesus used his final breaths to forgive those who destroyed him. (Luke 23:34)
4. These experiences made Jesus a compassionate friend, the humanity of Jesus is encouraging.