

Walter Johnston: 15 August 2021

(Sermon Summary)

Reading: John 7:32-39; 8:12-20

The greatest man who ever lived

Who is He?

He is LORD - He is God

He is JESUS - Strong to save (His name means Saviour)

He is CHRIST - anointed and set aside for a unique task.

He has been given the name that is above every name (Phil. 2:9-11).

- Does your knee willingly bow to Him?
- Do you love Him above all other things?
- Do you serve and obey Him?

The disciples saw his greatness

His greatness was experienced first-hand by His disciples, who came to understand that He is to be worshipped and obeyed. They saw many miracles:

- they drank the wine at the wedding in Cana
- they ate bread with the 5000
- they saw him heal the blind, the deaf and the lepers
- they were terrified on the Sea of Galilee, when He stilled the storm and later when He walked on the water.

The disciples marveled at His teaching, realising that He has the words of eternal life. They were also struck by his moral perfection, purity and sinlessness. Their response was to love Him.

We too can see the greatness of the Lord Jesus as we read the accounts of His life in the Gospels. And He loves us! We don't deserve His love, but He pours it out on us. He guards, guides, teaches, trains, rebukes and encouraging us, giving us the Holy Spirit.

Meeting our heroes can be disappointing but the Lord Jesus will never disappoint us. The more we know of Him, the more his greatness expands to our view (and the worse we will feel about ourselves!).

His claims

Anyone can make great claims, but Jesus proved His claims to be true.

The Light of the World (John 8)

At the Feast of Tabernacles, two huge golden lampstands were set up in the Temple and the lamps burned day and night. This reminded people of the pillar of fire in the wilderness. Jesus likened Himself to that light. He is the one who can lead you through the wilderness of the world. He proved His claim by bringing light to a blind man.

The Resurrection and the Life (John 11)

Jesus proved this claim by raising Lazarus after he had been dead for four days. The Jews believed that a person's spirit hovered around the corpse for three days, and after that the person was irretrievably gone.) We are dead in our sins but Jesus can call us to newness of life.

The one who can forgive sins (Mark 2)

The healing of the paralysed man proves that Jesus has the authority to forgive sins. We may think that the physical healing was more important, but the formerly paralysed man has now been enjoying Heaven for 2000 years because his sins were forgiven!

The blessings He gives to us

We have light

Are you thankful that Jesus has brought you out of darkness? Is the light that you walk in, increasing? For some of us, the light always seems to be dimmed down.

We have life

Are you living in the fulness of life that He has given? Lazarus ate a hearty supper after he was raised: how is your spiritual appetite?

We can go into the Lord's presence boldly with all our prayers and petitions and should also have a boldness before man.

We have liberty to call people to repentance

The Lord gives serious warnings to the unbeliever: "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-5). His warnings are just as true as His claims and we must issue these warnings to unbelievers, calling them to repent from all their sins including the 'small' ones like laziness, selfishness, greed, jealousy, lying and blasphemy.

A gracious invitation

At the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, massive jars of water were poured out to symbolise the Lord's provision of water in the desert. Jesus called out His gracious invitation as people stood

ankle-deep in the water flowing out from the Temple: “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink” (John 7: 37-38). Is your soul thirsty? A man in Chorlton had lived as an atheist for 30 years but realised that his life was going nowhere; his soul was thirsty. Jesus invites you to come and drink, and His invitation is for everyone.