

No Greater Impact

As President of the United States, Ronald Reagan was a man of great influence. Yet even President Reagan acknowledged that there is One who has greater influence than he:

“Meaning no disrespect to the religious convictions of others, I still can't help wondering how we can explain away what to me is the greatest miracle of all and which is recorded in history. No one denies there was such a man, that he lived and that he was put to death by crucifixion. Where... is the miracle of which I spoke? Well consider this and let your imagination translate the story into our own time – possibly to your own hometown.

A young man whose father is a carpenter grows up working in his father's shop. One day he puts down his tools and walks out of his father's shop. He starts preaching on street corners and in the nearby countryside, walking from place to place, preaching all the while, even though he is not an ordained minister. He does this for three years. Then he is arrested, tried and convicted. There is no court of appeal, so he is executed at age 33 along with two common thieves. Those in charge of his execution roll dice to see who gets his clothing – the only possessions he has.

*His family cannot afford a burial place for him, so he is interred in a borrowed tomb. End of story? No, this uneducated, propertyless young man who... left no written word has, for 2000 years, had a greater effect on the world than all the rulers, kings, emperors; all the conquerors, generals and admirals; all the scholars, scientists and philosophers who have ever lived – all of them put together. How do we explain that? ...Unless he really was who he said he was.” **

And who is he of which Reagan spoke? He is Jesus, the Son of God (John 1:34). He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). He is King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16). He is the greatest Person who has ever walked on the face of the earth. His impact on the world is unparalleled.

Jesus Christ is God's answer to man's greatest problem: sin. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 ESV). Jesus, the sinless Son of God, paid the price for our redemption from sin by dying on the cross for our sins (Ephesians 1:7).

God will save from sin and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

His sinlessness, His miracles, His teachings, and His unparalleled impact on this world are evidence that Jesus was who He said He was. And He can change your life and your eternal destiny, if you trust and obey Him.

-- David A. Sargent

* From *Stories in His Own Hand, the Everyday Wisdom of Ronald Reagan*, pp. 17–18, as quoted in www.sermonillustrations.com.