

One Solitary Life

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Here was a man born of a peasant woman. For the first thirty years of His life, He lived in obscurity, working as a carpenter's son.

He never wrote a book, He never ran for political office, He never even went more than 200 miles from His hometown. He never did any of the things that are normally associated with greatness.

During the last three years of His life, He became an itinerant preacher, roaming the land of His birth, healing the sick, and comforting the poor. At the end of these three years, the tide of public opinion turned against Him, and He was betrayed by a friend and arrested for disturbing the status quo. He went through six trials, each of which was a mockery of jurisprudence. The charge was blasphemy. He had claimed to be the Son of God.

The Roman procurator was nervous. Never had he seen such quiet dignity, such intrepid courage, such noble majesty. He brought this now mutilated carpenter's son before the mob and hurled a challenge to them which has resounded across twenty centuries: he said: *Ecce homo!*—"Behold the man!" The crowd shouted, "Crucify him," and, cowardly washing his hands of the whole affair, Pilate turned Him over to be crucified. They beat Him, crushed a crown of thorns down upon His head and then led Him outside the city walls and nailed Him to a cross.

But the story does not end there. Three days later, something happened which changed the entire course of human history—He emerged from the tomb in resurrection power.

His greatness has never been paralleled. Though twenty centuries have come and gone, He is the cornerstone of history still today, the center of human progress. He still stands as the highest example of moral purity—the pinnacle of Divine Glory.

We would be well within the mark if we said that all the armies which have ever marched, all the navies which have ever sailed, all the kings who have ever reigned, and all the parliaments which have ever sat, put together, have not influenced man's life on this earth as powerfully as that...

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