

# What Was Jesus Christ Like As a Human Being?

It may come as a surprise to some that the sad, long-haired weak-looking Jesus portrayed in most pictures with a white robe and a halo is **not** the Jesus Christ of the Christian Bible!

**2 Corinthians 11:3-4** [King James] *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”*

All these pictures and statues depict “another Jesus” **not** the One we should worship and follow.

There is no single passage of scripture in the Christian Bible that gives a complete description of Jesus Christ as a man. But many scattered verses allow us glimpses of Him as He really was as a human being.

Jesus was **not** especially handsome.

**Isaiah 53:1-2** [NIV] *“Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”*

The outer appearance of our Saviour Jesus Christ did **not** attract us to Him like some handsome film star.

**Luke 4:28-30** [NIV] *“All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.”*

Jesus Christ could walk through a crowd of Jews and not be recognised. In fact, Judas had to point Jesus Christ out from among His disciples with a kiss. [**Matthew 26:48-49**]

Jesus Christ's hair was short which was the accepted mode for men at that time in history.

Both the Roman and Hellenistic Greek culture that dominated the Eastern Mediterranean area the style for men was to wear short hair.

The Jewish Talmud, which is anti-Hellenistic, states that all priests should have their hair cut every 30 days.

**Ezekiel 44:20** [NIV] *“They must not shave their heads or let their hair grow long, but they are to keep the hair of their heads trimmed.”*

All Jews were aware of this statement.

All statues and other reproductions of Jewish men from Jesus Christ's period again point to short hair as the accepted style.

Some have mistakenly assumed that Jesus Christ was under a Nazirite vow so He wore His hair long. This is **not** true.

Jesus Christ came from Nazareth and the early Christians were sometimes called Nazarenes.

But neither of these words had anything to do with a Nazirite vow.

Jesus Christ drank wine. [**Matthew 11:19**] He also on occasions touched a dead body. [**Matthew 9:25**]. Both of which were forbidden to anyone under a Nazirite vow. [**Numbers 6:3, 6**]

**1 Corinthians 11:14** [NIV] *“Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him,”*

Those under a Nazirite vow let their hair grow long as a token of humiliation and shame. When the time period was over the Nazirite shave his head! [**Numbers 6:18**]

There is a possibility that Jesus Christ had a beard. [**Isaiah 50:6**]

**Matthew 13:55-56** [NIV] *“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”*

Jesus Christ was the elder brother to several younger brothers and sisters.

**Luke 2:46-47** [NIV] *“After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.”*

As a child Jesus Christ was exceptionally intelligent.

**John 7:15** [NIV] *“The Jews were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having studied?”*

As an adult Jesus Christ amazed the scholars of His day.

**Mark 6:3** [NIV] *“Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offence at him.”*

The Greek word translated “*carpenter*” denotes any craftsman, but especially a worker in wood, which included house building.

Jesus Christ was **no** physical weakling, His hands must have been calloused and His shoulders strong. [Remember there was **no** power tools in Christ’s day, all the work was done by hand.]

**Mark 15:15** [King James] *“And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.”*

No physically weak person could survive the Roman scourge.

**Matthew 4:1-2** [NIV] *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.”*

No physically weak person could fast for 40 days then go on to win the most decisive battle of all time, with Satan himself. [**Matthew 4:3-11**]

**Mark 2:1** [NIV] *“A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.”*

The Christian Bible indicates that Jesus Christ owned a house in Capernaum. [also read **Mattew 13:36, 57**] Jesus Christ was no destitute vagabond.

**Matthew 12:46** [NIV] *“While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him.”*

**Matthew 13:1** [NIV] *“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.”*

Jesus Christ’s house was large enough to hold quite a few people.

The fact that Jesus’ family was “*outside*” means the group of people that Jesus was addressing was “*inside*” the house. Being a carpenter Jesus could have built it Himself.

**Matthew 6:26-30** [NIV] *“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”*

Jesus Christ was familiar with the ways of wild animals and plants as well as the principles of agriculture. [**Matthew 13:1-43**] The caring of domestic animals. [**John 10:1-5; Luke 13:15, 14:5**]

By observing the elements, Jesus Christ knew what kind of weather to expect. [**John 4:6-7**]

**John 4:6-7** [NIV] *“Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”*

Tanned by the Judean sun, Jesus Christ was accustomed to walking long distances until He was sweaty, thirsty and weary.

**Matthew 8:20** [NIV] *“Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”*

There were no doubt times during His travels Jesus Christ has to sleep out under the stars when no shelter could be found.

### **Jesus Christ was a human of many facets.**

Those who imagine only “*gentle Jesus meek and mild,*” have forgotten how Jesus Christ twice chased the money changers out of the Temple. Dumping their money on the floor, Jesus Christ pushed over their tables and upset their chairs. While the flabbergasted money changers scrambled to get out of His way.

Jesus used a small whip to drive out the frightened oxen and bleating sheep. [**Mark 11:15-17; John 2:13-17**]

The same eyes in which the money changers saw the fire of righteous anger flash [**John 2:17**] overflowed on other occasions with tears of tenderness and sorrow. [**John 11:35; Isaiah 53:3**]

Jesus Christ was full of compassion. [**Matthew 9:36**]

Jesus Christ was fond of children [**Mark 10:15-16**] and children were fond of Jesus Christ. [**Matthew 21:15**]

Jesus Christ loved to be with people. [**Mark 6:34; Luke 9:11**]

For all this love of people Jesus Christ always managed to get away by Himself so He could maintain contact with His Father in heaven. [**Matthew 14:22-23**]

Jesus Christ understood the poor [**Luke 21:1-4**] but also the rich. [**Luke 12:13-34**]

Jesus Christ comprehended the problems of the labourer as well as the employer. [**Matthew 20:1-16**]

Jesus Christ understood the true principles of economics and how to handle wealth. [**Luke 19:12-26**]

Jesus Christ paid taxes [**Matthew 17:24-25; Matthew 22:17-21**]

Jesus Christ knew how to conduct Himself in any social situation.

With tax collectors and sinners. [**Matthew 9:10-11**]

With Pharisees. [**Luke 7:36**]

Jesus Christ dressed well, His clothing was of such value that the Roman soldiers gambled for it. [**Matthew 37:35**]

It was at a wedding celebration of a well-to-do family friend that Jesus Christ performed His first miracle, to avoid His friend's shame of running out of wine at a social occasion, and to respect his mother's wishes. [**John 2:1-11**]

Jesus Christ enjoyed good food and good drink, but always exercised perfect self-control. [**Luke 7:33-34**]

Jesus Christ had a very powerful and clear voice that could be heard by multitudes without the aid of any microphones, which were yet to be invented. [**Matthew 15:10**]

When it was appropriate Jesus Christ spoke with a note of humour. [**Luke 13:32; Mark 3:17**]

Jesus Christ loved human life and lived it abundantly, but He never let anything or anybody interfere with proclaiming the gospel message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God and doing His Father's Will. [**Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:42-44; Luke 9:1-2; Luke 9:59-62**]

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man, God in human flesh, was a teacher, a dependable friend, a warm, well-balanced, dynamic person.

Priests, harlots, businessmen, lepers, children, Roman soldiers, Jews, Samaritans, widows, rulers of the synagogue, sinners; Jesus was loved by some, hated by others, feared by some, respected by all who met with Him.

**Jesus Christ lived a varied life but in every circumstance He obeyed and brought honour to His spiritual Father, setting a perfect example for every human being to follow.**