

Why Should I Believe in Jesus?

What makes Jesus special? In presidential elections, candidates usually make promises they can't keep. This lack of candor shouldn't surprise us. Politicians reason that if they don't get elected, how can they help us? That's a fine way to rationalize duplicity.

Yet how many of us consistently speak honestly? Remember when Aunt Hilda wore that dress fit for a Transylvania Halloween? Did you tell her how charming she looked? How about that dry, hardly digestible casserole your relative fixed last Sunday? Did you say frankly, "Cousin, this would gag a maggot!"? I don't necessarily recommend these comments. Perhaps your hosts did their best. I confess that occasionally my frankness depends on the size and ferocity of my opponent.

Here's another area that's tough for me. I have difficulty relating my fears and confessing my faults. Did Jesus always speak candidly? Once a prominent citizen invited him to dinner. In those days of open-toed shoes, travelers shared roads with camels and livestock. When their guests arrived, good hosts washed their feet, or had a servant wash them. This man did neither. A woman of the street came, anointed Jesus' feet, and then dried them with her hair. The host asked Jesus how he could allow such a person to touch him. Jesus reminded the man of his failed manners. He candidly compared the woman's amazing act of humility with the wealthy man's inhospitality (see *Luke 7:36-50*). Few preachers deal with potential benefactors so bluntly.

On the night before his execution, Jesus acknowledged his aching loneliness. He declared, modeled, and embodied truth. Have you accepted the truth about him?

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