

HISTORY'S MVP



Who is history's Most Valuable Person? Before we discuss that, perhaps we should consider what makes a person or thing valuable and of great worth.

RARE The American dollar was once worth much more because it was backed by gold, but since the early 1900's it has lost 95% of its original value because the Fed just keeps on printing more fiat paper money. Gold however, has retained its purchasing power because it is rare. The antiques road show travels the country to give people an opportunity to check the value of their items. Rare or unique ones that are in good condition prove to be of great worth, much to the delight of the person who owns it.

**Jesus is Rare and Unique. John 3:16 God gave his only begotten Son
Begotten = unique, one of a kind**

- In origin...timeless
- In his virgin birth.....miraculous
- In his life.....sinless
- In his death.....priceless (supernatural, sacrificial, selfless love)
- In his resurrection from death.....victorious
- In his ascension to heaven and the throne.....glorious

**I will shake all the nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory, says the Lord of Hosts.
- Haggai 2:8 NKJV**

RELIABILITY

It seems there are always a few professional athletes who have great talent but are not faithful in coming to practice or giving their best in the game. Unfortunately, this pattern can be seen in many other areas of life. The work ethic in our society has diminished in comparison to many decades ago when people were more faithful in coming to their job and working hard.

When consumers buy products, they not only look at its price but also on its reliability. When I was in Russia in 1993 I bought a camera which was not very expensive. Before I had finished taking one roll of pictures the camera was already coming apart with loose screws. Its only worth to me now is as a souvenir. Several years ago on a news broadcast, Paul Harvey reported on a Russian plane that had literally disintegrated in the air. I would avoid products 'Made in Russia'. However, if

one sees a product made in Germany, you can expect it to be of high quality and standards. Some of the most reliable cars today come from the Japan and S. Korea.

Jesus was Faithful and Reliable.

- He stood firm against the devil's temptations his whole life- John 14:30
- He kept his eye on the goal of reaching the cross - Luke 13:31-33
- He was faithful to the assignment Father God gave him. - John 17:4
- He is called Faithful and True - Revelation 19:11

ATTRACTIVE

Real estate near the ocean, a lake or in the mountains, is usually of greater value than elsewhere because of the beautiful surroundings. Good looking people often have an advantage in getting certain jobs such as TV hosts or as news broadcasters. People who are personable, kind and gracious tend to draw people around them. Some people are attracted to those who have great wealth or high positions.

Jesus was Attractive

There was little about his physical appearance that attracted people to him (Isaiah 53:2) and he was hardly recognizable while he suffered on the cross (Isaiah 52:14). However, the crowds of people were drawn to him during his public ministry. They were attracted by his kindness, compassion, miracles and willingness to help those in need.

MULTI-PURPOSE USEFULNESS

Land line telephones are not as valuable as a smart phone that can be used most anywhere and has added features such as texting, internet access, picture taking and storage etc. An athlete that can play in various positions adds value to a team. Some people are multi-talented and therefore very valuable to a company.

Jesus was Multi-gifted in Character and Capabilities.

- He walked in special wisdom and knowledge.
- He healed all those who came to him who had all sorts of diseases and demons
- He was a friend of sinners.
- He was a selfless servant
- He was a true prophet of God and even predicted his own death, burial and resurrection.
- He was an amazing teacher who revealed the secrets of the kingdom of God
- He operated in authority to display the power and goodness of God with integrity
- He claimed to be the eternal Son of God and confirmed it with his perfect life
- He is the Savior of the whole world who willingly sacrificed himself on the cross and solved man's greatest danger....sin's wages which is death and eternal punishment.

- He never defended or promoted himself but lived for the glory of the Father
- He claimed to be a king but chose to live in simplicity and humility

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Classic cars have proved to be a good investment when preserved or restored to original condition. However, their value increases dramatically when the car was previously owned by a famous person such as Elvis Presley or some other celebrity. Persons who affect the course of a nation or history in a positive way are recognized as great.

The world has been influenced by people of great significance. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and on towards the promised land. Nelson Mandela helped his people achieve independence in South Africa. Lincoln led the way in freeing the slaves and Martin Luther King helped end segregation of the blacks in America 100 years after that. While living in S. Africa, Gandhi was introduced to the teachings and life of Jesus Christ. He was ready to give his life to Christ when he went to a Presbyterian church, but he was forbidden entry because he was dark skinned. He returned to India without Christ, but he retained the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, which inspired him to lead a successful non-violent revolution against British rule. Those men made a difference in their own countries but if you look at their personal lives you will find some imperfect traits. There is one person who stands alone in history in moral character and whose influence reached the whole world, despite the fact that he grew up in a small rural village in Israel. He became known as 'Jesus of Nazareth'.

Jesus is Historically Significant

Although the names of the weekly calendar were named after classical planets in Greek astrology and also after deities in Roman times, **our years are in reference to Jesus Christ. B.C. = Before Christ A.D. = In the year of our Lord** (the terms B.C.E. = Before the common era and C.E. = Common Era became popular in the Jewish community in the mid -1800's and later by others who preferred to leave out the reference to Christ Jesus the Lord.) Sunday is now called The Lord's Day, for that was the day he rose from the dead.

Millions of people and various areas of society in the last 2000 years have been impacted by the person of Jesus Christ and many have come to know him as Savior and Lord. However, we pray that millions more today will discover that Jesus Christ is History's MVP. He is the most precious and valuable person that ever walked this earth.

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