

The Real Jesus (Good Friday)

2 people – Stephen and Adrian. Stephen wearing a veil. Set of 5 A5 cards with explanations of who Jesus is.

Stephen: Adrian, Adrian, I reckon I've finally worked out who Jesus is. I can see it now. (Holds up one of the cards). Jesus doesn't even exist. He's actually just a construct of people's imagination. He just expresses the universal desire that we human beings have, for there to be a God, someone who is bigger than us, who can come and rescue us. We just need to accept there is no God. As much as we might want it to be different, this is an empty universe. Empty, empty, empty. Emptiness stretching out from one star to the next. We just have to make the best of it; do the best we can, because there's nothing else out there. What do you think Adrian? I'm right aren't I?

Adrian: That would be very sad if it were true, but truly, Jesus is not just wishful thinking.

Stephen: He isn't? Ok, I'll keep looking. (*ruffles through and looks at cards*). Ok. Ok. I've got it this time. Jesus was a real person, he did actually exist, but he was a false messiah. The people of the time they were looking for a messiah, someone who would rescue them from the Romans. They were hopeful that Jesus was actually the one. But then he ended up crucified on a cross. A real disappointment. Jesus was a false hope. A false messiah! Adrian surely it would be foolish to put your hope in him. He will only disappoint you. All Your hopes and dreams will be crushed. You'll be devastated.

Adrian: Stephen, I am not disappointed with Jesus.

Stephen: Really? Ok, I'll keep looking. (*looks through cards again*). Aha, why didn't I see this before. Jesus was a good man, a man with very good morals, who showed the world what it means to be good. But the bad people did not like that. So they stuck him on a cross to get rid of him. I'm seeing the truth this time, aren't I Adrian? I can just feel it in my bones. That's who Jesus is. A good man that the world couldn't stand. Y'know Adrian, you and I as good people, we can't let the bad people win. Like Jesus we need to stand up for goodness, no matter what.

Adrian: That sounds very noble Stephen, but how good are you really? Jesus on earth was indeed a good man, but he is also still so much more than what you are seeing.

Stephen: So everything I'm saying about Jesus is wrong is it? What makes you the one who sees the truth about Jesus? Looks at congregation. "Why does he see and not me?... What?" Looks through cards again. Alright let me try this one, but I'm not feeling hopeful. Jesus is a prophet sent by God to speak God's message to the world. He's actually one in a whole line of prophets that God has sent over time to different peoples. Buddha, Confucious; Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mohammad. These have all been sent by God. They all have something good to say. They all in their own way draw us to God. That seems quite reasonable to me. But I suppose that's wrong as well?

Adrian: Actually, Jesus is a prophet.

Stephen: He is!?

Adrian: Yes, but he's The Prophet, and he is the Priest, and he is the King. You still don't see as you need to see. Keep looking. The truth will be revealed to you.

Stephen: *Looks at Adrian for a moment then looks through the cards. Then starts to get excited. Hey... hey... hey....(hands shoot up knocking hat and veil of his head – sinks to his knees)* Jesus... Jesus... my heart burns within me... Your loving eyes draw me in... I see you... You gave up your life for me... yet you live... you forgive me... I feel your embrace... You are God... my God... my saviour... my King... I am speechless in your presence.