**Jesus**

**There are also a great many other things which Jesus did, which,**

**if they were written one by one, not even this world, I believe,**

**could contain the books that would be written.**

***(St. John 21:25)***

**Jesus and Satan have an argument as to who is the better programmer. This goes on for a few hours until they agree to hold a contest with God as the judge. They set themselves before their computers and begin. They type furiously for several hours, lines of code streaming up the screen. Seconds before the end of the competition, a bolt of lightning strikes, taking out the electricity. Moments later, the power is restored, and God announces that the contest is over. He asks Satan to show what he has come up with. Satan is visibly upset, and cries, “I have nothing! I lost it all when the power went out." “Very well, then," says God, "let us see if Jesus fared any better." Jesus enters a command, and the screen comes to life in vivid display, the voices of an angelic choir pour forth from the speakers. Satan is astonished. He stutters, “But how?! I lost everything, yet Jesus' program is intact! How did he do it?” God chuckles, “Jesus saves." (On Course Magazine)**

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**Billy says while opening his presents under the tree: “I’m glad Jesus wasn’t born on the 29th of February!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**When a pastor asked the class, “Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?” a boy raised his hand and replied, “Because his mother was there.” *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

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**Jesus did not promise to take away our burdens. He promised to help us carry them. (Joseph Cardinal Bernardin)**

**Son: “Dad, why did they call Jesus 'Teacher'?" Dad: “Cause He taught them the Word of God." Son: “So why did they also call Him 'The Word'?" Dad: “Cause He stood on the Word you're standing on now, Truth." (Johnny Hart, in B.C. comic strip)**

**Especially interesting were the remarks of Edgar Cayce who, in the course of his years as a trance medium, exhibited thousands of verifiable diagnoses and cures for people thousands of miles away. Cayce, an ardent, almost fanatical Baptist, was shocked upon first awaking from a trance to hear he had spoken of Jesus traveling and studying in foreign lands to the east. He later became convinced it was true. *(Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 4)***

**Fearing that the best-selling novel The DaVinci Code may be sowing doubt about basic Christian beliefs, a host of Christian churches, clergy members and Bible scholars are rushing to rebut it. In the past 13 months, readers have bought more than 6 million copies of the book, a historical thriller that claims Christianity was founded on a cover-up -- that the church has conspired for centuries to hide evidence that Jesus was a mere mortal, married Mary Magdalene and had children whose descendents now live in France. People are buying into the notion that Jesus is not divine, he is not the son of God. *(Laurie Goodstein)***

**The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, more than any other discovery we know, shows that very period which spans the entire life of Jesus and yet, there is not a single reference to Jesus. *(Dr. John C. Trevor)***

**People were thinking Jesus was divine in some sense or another from the first century on. (*Harold W. Attridge, Dean of Yale Divinity School)***

**Ryan, our 4-year-old grandson, had finished his evening bath and his mother, Sheree, was drying him. Suddenly, Ryan asked her: “Would you dry off my feet with your hair like Jesus' girlfriend did?" (Larry & Judi Eckhoff, in The Lutheran Witness)**

**Alone in all history. Jesus estimates the greatness of man. One man was true to what is in me and you. He saw that God incarnates Himself in man, and ever more goes forth anew to take possession of the world. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)**

**I just had to write to tell you how much I love and care for you. Yesterday, I saw you walking and laughing with your friend; I hope that soon you'd want to walk along with me. So, I painted you a sunset to close your day and whispered a cool breeze to refresh you. I waited -- you never called -- I just kept on loving you. As I watched you fall asleep last night, I wanted so much to touch you. I spilled moonlight onto your face -- trickling down your cheeks as so many tears have. You didn't even think of me. I wanted so much to comfort you. The next day I exploded a brilliant sunrise into glorious morning for you. But you woke up late and rushed off to work -- you didn't even notice. My sky became cloudy and My tears were the rain. I love you. Oh if you would only listen. I really love you. I try to say it in the quiet of the green meadow and in the blue sky. The wind whispers My love throughout the treetops and spills it into the vibrant colors of the flowers. I shout it to you in the thunder of the great waterfalls and compose love songs for the birds to sing to you. I warm you with the clothing of My sunshine and perfume the air with natures sweet scent. My love for you is deeper than any ocean and greater than any need in your heart. If you'd only realize how much I care. My Dad sends His love. I want you to meet him. He cares, too. Fathers are just that way. So please call me soon. No matter how long it takes. I'll wait -- because I love you. (Your Friend, Jesus)**

**In the Gospels according to St. Matthew and St. Luke, it says Jesus was “born at Bethlehem.” St. Mark, on the other hand, names Nazareth as the place of birth. Right from the birth of the Redeemer, confusion and contradiction make the Bible adventurous reading. (Erich von Daniken, in Miracles of the Gods, p. 69)**

**Cecil B. De Mille once told me that his picture The King of Kings made during the silent movie era, was seen by an estimated 800,000,000 people. I asked him why he did not reproduce The King of Kings with sound and color. He replied, “I will never be able to do it, because if I gave Jesus a southern accent, the northerners would not think of him as their Christ. If I gave him a foreign accent, the Americans and the British would not think of him as their Christ." He said, “As it is, people of all nations, from every race, creed, clan, can accept him as their Christ." (Rev. Billy Graham)**

**When Grandpa died, 8-year-old Mollie knew that he had gone to heaven to be with Jesus. Two days later, as she was listening to the sermon on Ascension Day, she patted her Daddy's arm to get his attention and asked, “Dad, how does that work that Grandpa got to heaven before Jesus did?" (Lorraine Radewahn, in The Lutheran Witness)**

**How old is Baby Jesus? Four, according to my 6-year-old godchild, Shaun. While lighting the Advent wreath, Shaun observed that since Christmas is the celebration of the birthday of Baby Jesus, and there are four candles on the Advent wreath, then Jesus must be turning 4 this Christmas. *(Michael J. Bradley, in Catholic Digest)***

**The Life of Saint Issa was allegedly written down three to four years after the crucifixion based on accounts brought to India by merchants who had witnessed the event. *(Nicolas Notovitch, in The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ)***

**Jesus was described as “king of the Jews” as a deliberate insult to the Jewish authorities on the part of Pilate, the governor of Judea. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 12)**

**Not everyone who follows these universal teachings is interested in knowing the Teacher, but maybe you, like us, desire to know Jesus Christ. Knowing His beautiful teachings, perhaps you now crave a personal relationship with Him who revealed them. (Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 303)**

**Jesus said that the bread taken in the Last Supper was his flesh, and the wine was his blood. He meant that all beings alive with flesh and blood are to be treated as He himself and no distinction should be made between friend or foe, we or they, everybody is his body, sustained by the bread: every drop of blood flowing in the veins of every living being is his, animated by the activity that the wine imparted to it. That is to say, every man and woman is divine and has to be revered as such. (Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba)**

**The church basement was crowded with families gathered for the parish directory photo session. My 4-year-old grandson, Reuben, had never been in a church and was begging me to go upstairs. With childish wonder, he asked about the big gold box on the table. I explained that it was a tabernacle and Jesus lived there. He just stood there quietly examining the tabernacle until someone in the sacristy coughed. Reuben bolted from the sanctuary and ran downstairs. “Grandpa, Grandpa, guess what?” he yelled. “Jesus lives in a gold box with no doorknob and he has a cold!” *(Claudette Therriault, in Catholic Digest)***

**The second chapter of Luke, after telling of the incident in the temple when Jesus was 12 ends with the words, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.” The next chapter begins with Jesus being baptized by John at what we are told is age 30. *(Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 1)***

**A key to understanding the Gospels lies in the awareness that the Christ, the spiritual man, spoke often through Jesus, the natural man; and that again at times the natural man, Jesus, spoke on his own account. Spiritual understanding must reveal to us when it was that Christ spoke and when it was that Jesus spoke. In such instances when Jesus spoke words out of anger or grief -- this was Jesus speaking from human consciousness. But when He spoke such words as: “He that believeth in me, the works that I do shall he do also," He spoke from the Christ consciousness. (A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 18)**

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**The story in the manuscript Notovitch was shown not only paralleled what the Bible says about Jesus, but included his life from age 12 to 30 as well. *(Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 3)***

**We began to look for other relevant material and soon heard of a book by a Russian, Nicolas Notovitch, who had traveled extensively in Afganistan, India and Tibet in the late 1880’s. The story in the manuscript Notovitch was shown not only paralleled what the Bible says about Jesus, but included his life from age 12 to 30 as well. *(Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 2, 3)***

**The manuscripts relate to us, first of all, according to the accounts given by merchants arriving from Judea in the same year when the death of Jesus occurred, that a just man by the name of Issa, an Israelite, in spite of his being acquitted twice by the judges as being a man of God, was nevertheless put to death by the order of the Pagan Governor Pilate, who feared that he might take advantage of his great popularity to reestablish the kingdom of Israel and expel from the country its conquerors. *(Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 6)***

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**Our seven-year-old twins, Tom and Mike, made an announcement after church on Sunday, when we asked what they'd learned in Sunday school. "We found out," Mike said, "that Jesus was married!" Tom saw our surprise. "It's true!" he concurred. "The teacher said so! Jesus appeared to marry Magdalene." *(Jim Robb, in Catholic Digest)***

**Great things were expected of the coming Messiah; but as Jesus' ministry developed, people saw that their hopes were not being fulfilled. Jesus did not proclaim Himself to be the warrior-leader who would overthrow the Romans, and set up the new kingdom of Israel. Nor did He claim to be the supernatural Messenger, coming down from the heavens and bringing all the kingdoms of the world under His dominion. (Dr. Herbert J. Hunt)**

**It gradually dawned on us that those years were missing because someone had taken them out of the records, out of the Bible. We could not imagine Jesus would have appeared in Galilee at the age of 30 and hidden the major part of his life from the disciples he loved and asked to follow him. And it really doesn’t seem possible those years were so unimportant as to be dismissed without a word. So the idea grew that at some point what had been known about those years in his life had been deleted. In examining historical records of the early Christian church, it became evident that early church councils, especially the First Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. changed many points of doctrine, and it was possible those missing years were expunged because they did not coincide with the political needs of a growing church. *(Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 4)***

**Jesus left no buildings or monuments. Rather, he left a lasting experience. And, for those who believe, he left teachings which enable us to realize that all people carry within them the potential of manifesting their own divinity. (Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 18)**

**Mom: “If you had seen Jesus perform a miracle what would you say?" Billy: “Wow! Now there's something you don't see every day!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**The religion founded on his teachings counts nearly a third of the world's population as members, yet his words and deeds and the meaning of his life, death and Resurrection are subjects of intense debate and sometimes surprising interpretations. Many still ask the question of the ages: “Who is Jesus?” (Jeffery Sheler, in U.S. News & World Report)**

**Through the Jains, Issa was presented with a teaching which said it was not animals that needed sacrificing, rather it was the mindless, animal-like qualities in men and women which needed to be purified, made sacred and finally surrendered. *(Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 30)***

**In his travels Nicolas Notovitch had heard enigmatic tales of a Saint from the west who had been revered by the Hindus and the Buddhists. While convalescing he was shown a copy of a manuscript, a collection of verses, describing the life of this Saint known as Issa, the Buddhist equivalent of the name of Jesus. *(Janet Bock, in The Jesus Mystery, p. 2)***

**A young woman brought her two-year-old daughter to church one day. On her way out after Mass, the child passed a statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague. “Mommy,” the little girl said, “Jesus is the same age as me.” “What makes you think that?” the mother asked. “He’s holding up two fingers.” *(Sr. Gabrielita, C.S.C., in Catholic Digest)***

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**Boy asks his Dad: “Dad, how come when Jesus gave His ‘Sermon on the Mound,' He doesn't even mention baseball?" (The Lutheran Witness)**

**Studies of the Dead Sea Scrolls indicate that the passage in the Bible known as the Sermon on the Mount is actually an ancient Essene prayer dating to hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 21)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**During his children’s sermon, our assistant pastor asked the kids, “What is gray, has a bushy tail, and gathers nuts in the fall?” One five-year-old raised his hand. “I know the answer should be Jesus,” he began, “but it sounds like a squirrel to me.” *(Rev. Richard E. O’Hara, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Jesus is believed to have spoken Aramaic, the language then in use in the Arabian peninsula where he lived. A modern version of the language is still spoken in Syria. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 171)***

**My husband and I spend all the time we can with our 2-year-old grandson, Isaac. While sitting on our porch swing one evening, Isaac noticed the beautiful sunset. “Grandma, who made that?" I replied, "Jesus did." A couple of weeks later we were walking outside after a rainstorm. Threatening clouds still filled the skies. Isaac looked at them and said, “Grandma, Jesus sure made a mess, didn't He?" (Joyce Carroll, in Country magazine)**

**Socrates taught for 40 years, Plato for 50, Aristotle for 40, and Jesus for only 3. Yet the influence of Christ's 3-year ministry infinitely transcends the impact left by the combined 130 years of teaching from these men who were among the greatest philosophers of all antiquity. Jesus painted no pictures; yet, some of the finest paintings of Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci received their inspirations from Him. Jesus wrote no poetry; but Dante, Milton, and scores of the world's greatest poets were inspired by Him. Jesus composed no music; still Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Bach, and Mendelssohn reached their highest perfection of melody in the hymns, symphonies, and oratories they composed in His praise. Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by this humble Carpenter of Nazareth. (Henry G. Bosch)**

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**Jesus Christ, the Way-Shower, has clearly blazed a trail for you. His teachings serve as guideposts as you encounter what you feel may be bewildering obstacles (such as relationship problems, loss of a job, addictions, ill health) along the path. His teachings will not only keep you heading in the right directions, they will arm you with powerful weapons with which to make your overcomings. Jesus' teachings can (and were meant to) transform the entire world. That was, and is, their purpose: to bring to all humanity the news that we are part of God and that God's desire for each of us is absolute good. (Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 301 and 302)**

**Jesus crossed the “mortality barrier" where for centuries man had thought of himself as "born in sin and shaped in iniquity." He bridged the gap between man's mortality and his potential divinity, and thus, for all time he became the “wayshower", the “saviour", the bridge over which all may pass in "putting on the Christ." (A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 19)**

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**Robert Sheldon's classic novel, In His Steps, tells the story of a community of people who resolved to meet all life's experience by asking the question, “What would Jesus do in this situation?” (Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 18)**

**While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for “What would Jesus do?” and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions. The man pondered a moment, then replied, “I don’t think he’d pay $17.95 for that hat.” (Todd Ash, in Reader’s Digest)**

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**As Mom was preparing pancakes for her sons Johnny, 5, and Alex, 3, the boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. The mom saw the opportunity to teach a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting there," she said, “he would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Johnny quickly turned to his younger brother and said, “OK, Alex, you be Jesus!" (The Saturday Evening Post)**

**The Xmas did not originally begin with the Roman letter X. It began with the Greek letter chi, which was used in medieval manuscripts as an abbreviation for the word Christ. For example, Xus equals Christus. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 171)***

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