

JESUS

The life of Jesus, what do we know?

He was born and raised in a small rural town, his education was minimal, and he worked for a living. He left his work to live the life of a street preacher, sponging off the hospitality of others. He made up stories, which he recited in public to illustrate his moral views about life.

In the course of his wandering, he attracted a few people who left their jobs to hang out with him full time. Because his views about the morality of living were far removed from the mainstream, but ever-more appealing to the people who came to hear him preach, he soon came to the attention of the local religious establishment - they were not pleased.

They publicly challenged his unorthodox view of religious morality, the historical authenticity of his preaching, and the kinds of people who made up his entourage. These public confrontations dramatically increased the size of his audience and the numbers of full time volunteers who became part of his road show. More and more people were attracted to this new morality and openly began to question traditional moral codes of conduct.

The tension between the followers of Jesus and the religious authorities ratcheted up to such an extent there was no hope for an accommodation of any kind – the views of Jesus were too extreme, he had to be removed.

Ultimately, events were staged and arrangements made by local authorities, both religious and civil, to bring him to trial and judgment. After the death penalty was executed, his audience was dispersed and his full time followers fled for their lives. The public street preaching of Jesus lasted only a few years.

Jesus left no written record behind; likely he could not write. Because he did not beget children, his family name was extinguished, and he left no estate because he had no possessions.

His life - short and tragic as it was – changed the course of human history and several thousand years later I write about him.

How can this be?