

Monday, April 1, 2024

A Christian was chatting with several people from differing faiths. They all shared the strengths of their particular perspectives. Each of them could list gifted teachers, and many could reference wise philosophers. A few of them emphasized their social awareness, while others demanded a strict observance to a detailed moral code. Suddenly, one of the participants turned to the Christian and asked, "So, with all this diversity, what does Christianity offer that ours don't?"

The Christian answered with a story: "I come to a crossroads and I see two men, one dead and one alive. Which one do I ask for directions?" The response came quickly, "Well, the living one, of course." To which the Christian answered, "Then, why should I go to a dead Mohammed, or Buddha, or Gandhi; instead of the resurrected and living Christ?"

That's the basic difference between Jesus Christ and every other religious leader. All the others came into the world, lived, and died; and that's the end of their story. The resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter was the central event that persuaded His disciples once and for all that He was the Christ, God's Son.

John 20:19-20 ...the first {day} of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace {be} with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

A Muslim gentleman came up to a Christian missionary and said, "We have something you don't have." The missionary smiled and said, "Really? What's that?"

The Muslim said, "When we go to Mecca, we can visit our Master's coffin. But when you go to Jerusalem, you find nothing but an empty grave."

The missionary just smiled and said, "That's exactly the difference. Jesus Christ is risen. That is our hope and assurance."