



Why Jesus and not Muhammad?

Dear Friend in Jesus! I fled to the West 3 decades ago to escape the capital punishment of apostasy in Islam. I desired an environment in which to continue my spiritual journey with Jesus and not Muhammad and where freedom of faith, practice and propagation was available to me. Very soon I realized that I was free to practice my faith as long as I was not offending others. I realized that my celebrations of Christmas and Easter were not only offensive to some but that if I talked about Jesus at a party, social or political; I could be accused of being a 'party pooper.'

New Age Christianity? At the turn of the new millennia something further came to light. Having a kind of critical immunity one can preach and teach Islam or any eastern spiritual mantra, but not Christianity, not something about Jesus. It is thoroughly criticized. Now a decade later I see that some Churches and its members following a type of 'New Age Christianity'. They have shaken hands with Islam in a way that along with the Bible, the Qur'an is now accepted as a book for guidance. In worship, Muhammad and Jesus are seen equal in the name of peace, uniformity and goodness. Muslims are invited to speak from their pulpit to show Christians how Jesus and Muhammad are branches of the same tree sown by God himself, the God of Abraham. The idea behind it at its best is to bring syncretism between Islam and Christianity.

Deceptive Comparison Some Muslims are taking the advantage of such a situation to undermine the 'par excellence' position of Jesus. They bring him down to a level with Muhammad, declaring that both Jesus and Muhammad were sent by God to lead people into the straight path. Both preached that we should surrender to God and both advised followers to be good. Both got upset seeing that the house of God was used to gain worldly profit. As in the case of Jesus, when he saw men selling cattle, sheep, and doves and changing money, he became furious and with a whip drove every wicked one out of the temple, shouting at them, 'how dare you turn my Father's house into a market!' (John 2:16). To make their comparison between Jesus and Muhammad acceptable such Muslims in their discussion with Christians allude to an event in Muhammad's life when he ordered that all idols from the temple of Ka'ba in the city of Mecca be removed and the place be used only for worship of one God.

Dear Friends! Be warned. Such a comparison is deceptive. Muhammad marched towards Mecca with the full intention to fight. Due to previous fights, the city had already lost its strength to defend itself and thus this time in spite of some skirmishes between a few individuals, the majority of Meccans surrendered without a fight. Muhammad and his army were welcomed. The story is mentioned by biographers like Ibn Ishaq (d. 761) that Muhammad ordered that the temple be cleansed of idols (*Sira Rasul Allah* p. 540 ff.). In the case of Jesus, he never marched with an intention to invade Jerusalem with an army. The temple at Jerusalem was not occupied with idols as was in the case of Ka'ba where several hundred idols were and thus Muhammad ordered that they be 'collected and burned with fire and broken up' (*Sira*, p. 552). In the case of the temple in Jerusalem, it was the outside courts that were used by shoppers for their goods. Jesus accused them of turning the place into 'a market' but not of 'idolatry' (John 2:16).

The Big Difference There is a big difference in their preaching and teaching. The Qur'an and traditions are not sure of Muhammad being the mediator or intercessor. In contrast, about Jesus, the Bible is. The main purpose of Jesus' preaching was to give his life as ransom for many (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). The teaching of Muhammad was that people should seek salvation through prescribed rituals and righteous works, be ready to wipe out unbelief with the formula 'to kill and be killed'. Jesus taught to love even your enemies. Muhammad claimed, 'a Muslim is a brother of Muslim' – others are outside. While Jesus on the cross in his last moments asked God for mercy and forgiveness for his persecutors, Muhammad asked God's curse on Jews and Christians (*Sahih Bukhari, Volume 7, Book 72, Number 706*).



Military campaigns versus Servant-hood Muhammad used his place of worship, the mosque, also for military expedition plans. After taking control of the hub of Arabia, the political and tribal system collapsed and tribe after tribe gave in to the alliance of Muhammad's leadership under whom not only they were being united politically but religiously also, thus the popular Islamic phrase we know today, '*al-islam ad-din wa dawla*' – Islam is (both) religion and government. It was this legacy that was followed by Muhammad's followers and in just one century they established an empire that was bigger than the Roman Empire.

The mission of Jesus was that he came on God's behalf as the only mediator of whom all the prophets before him spoke. He came to fulfill the promise made with Abraham by God and was repeated in many ways by people from Moses to John the Baptist.

Following the Great Commission, the disciples preached and invited people to repentance. Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and then there was no end, they spread into the world in just one hundred years. It was not through military struggle but following the example of Jesus of *servant-hood*. Like a broken record the first century disciples repeated again and again to their audiences: God has spoken in these last days through Jesus and only through him salvation and assurance is available (Acts 4:12; Hebrews 1:1-2). In contrast the Qur'an and Muhammad taught that God revealed Islam so to take over all other faiths (Sura 9:33; 48:28; 61:9) and *Allah loves those who kill for His cause* (Sura 61:4). This meant for Muslims to use Islamic evangelism along with military struggle. Some Christians in later times did follow the idea of military struggle to proclaim Christ but realized that the teaching of Jesus never condoned it. In contrast, Islamic teaching exhorts military struggle for the spread of the religion of Allah.

As you, our brother and sister celebrate the first coming of Jesus, please pray with us that these fallen Christians will return back to Jesus and accept His unique offer of assurance not available anywhere else not even in Islam. Also pray for us that words may be granted to us so to speak in clear words what Jesus is all about. On behalf of our team, Karen and I thank you for your generosity and friendship. A great door of effective work is open to us and there are those who oppose us (1 Corinthians 16:9). We are more committed than ever to complete the task to which God has called us. We wish you a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year in Jesus.

Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects

Funds in total received:

October 2011: \$8,464.00

November 2011: \$7,715.49

Thank you and may God richly bless you for your obedience, that in spite of the economic crisis, you chose to support this ministry. Outreach to Muslims is vital in light of the "times" we are in today and although our monthly need is \$12,800, we trust in HIM to continue to and pray that all those called to provide for this ministry will heed His call. Praise God for His provision for His work. If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving go to: www.JesusToMuslims.org & click on 'Make a Donation'.

Prayer and praise points

- That Muslims will listen to Jesus and be not confused by liberal Christians
- We praise Him for Continuous Support for the ministry
- We praise Him for several Muslims who have accepted Jesus as their Savior
- For the resources available to teach and share the Gospel
- We need financial help for billboards, the 'safe house' (The Comfort Project) and printing of our new resources
- Car has done around 180,000 miles
- Admin help and websites expertise.

*Please call Karen if God is calling you to help
954-290-0511*

Highlights of the year 2011

- Several Perspectives classes
- Testimony sharing FL, ME, NC, TX
- Seminars – ME, FL, TX
- 26 thousand miles by car into mission journeys
- Hundreds of e-mails and phone conversations
- Counseling and discipling women
- Attending conferences and speaking
- Teaching Bible Studies and Care groups
- Muslim Background Believers Conferences
- Writings:
Steven:- *Jesus or Muhammad? A Question of Assurance;*
Karen:- *Wedding Preparation for eternity*

From the bottom of our hearts, we are so grateful for all of you who have helped this ministry 'calling' on our lives, through your prayers, financial support and the giving of your talents. We praise God for you!

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

We send you our love and blessings and wish you a Very Merry Christmas filled with the celebration of Jesus, our Savior's birth! We rejoice in knowing that our Bridegroom is preparing His Bride, the church, for the marriage supper!