Jesus is the Exact Reflection of God in Human Form

Rod Matthews – 25Oct2026

In the beginning….God. And he created out of nothing the heavens and the earth.

Let's start with the heavens: look up at night and without streetlights and urban light pollution, it is possible to see maybe 2500 to 3000 stars. Here in an urban centre, you might see anywhere from 200 to 1000 stars depending on the atmospheric clarity that evening. Our own galaxy, the Milky Way, contains hundreds of billions of stars.

The observable universe (i.e observable to humans on earth) contains something above 10 sextillion stars (i.e. 1 plus 22 zeros after it).

God spoke and the heavens came into being. Or if you like scientific terminology, there was the Big Bang – the name given to the beginning of the universe. Of course, atheistic scientists have no idea what initiated the Big Bang.

In this incomprehensible vastness, there is the earth. A small, minor planet of a small minor sun, in the middle of a small, insignificant solar system.

And God created the earth and its complex environment and all the systems of mutual support between animals and plants so he could craft a home for the creatures that were made in his image – with whom he could have a relationship. That means beings he could talk to, who could think, reason, learn and relate. And who had the capacity to love – to be a conduit for the love of the One who made them.

And here we are. It takes a view of the earth from a distance to appreciate and reassure our home. And get a feel for our insignificance.

I am trying to contrast the vast gulf between God and human beings. And I can only refer back to the statement of David in Psalm 8:3-4 which states, "When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, he son of man that you care for him?"

Or as *The Message* says, “Why do you bother with us? Why take a second look our way?”

And yet, this remarkable being, so powerful, beyond the most simplistic comprehension of our feeble minds, chose to have a relationship with us and as a first step in that process, reveal himself to us in a way we could understand.

He didn’t first send us an explanatory document we needed to read, and tell us to use our imagination, although that was an addendum.

He sent the Word – which turned out to be his Son. As John said, this Word, who was in the beginning, and who was with God and who was God, became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Or as The Message so beautifully puts it, he became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.

And we are told in Hebrews 1:3 that “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory, **the exact representation of his being**, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”

Other translations word it the “very expression of God’s essence” and “the exact imprint of his nature” and that he “perfectly mirrors God and is stamped with God’s nature.”

You will recall that the disciple Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, and Jesus replied (John 14:9), “Don’t you know me Philip even after I have been among you for such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

So, from Jesus’ own words, and from the author of Hebrews, we confirm that Jesus and Father are identical in nature and expression. See Jesus….and we see the Father.

So, going back to our theme today, ‘Jesus is the exact reflection of God in human form’ let’s look at Jesus’ life as human being and see if we can build a picture of what the Father is like.

I asked you to think about what is written in the scriptures, and particularly in the New Testament, and give us one example that inspired you of HOW

Jesus demonstrated what God the Father was like in his interactions as a human being.

1. Samaritan women at the well – he senses her shame and her thirst for acceptance. (John 4:1-16)
2. Zaccheus – he sees the loneliness and rejection beneath the wealth. (Luk 19:1-10)
3. The crowds walking miles to hear him teach – and he sees them as sheep without a shepherd. (Mat 14:13-21)
4. Leper – rejected and isolated, desperate for healing to regain touch and intimacy. (Mat 8:1-4)
5. Women with bleeding for 12 years – her desperation for healing so she is not continuously unclean and therefore excluded. (Mat 9:20-22)
6. Bartimaeus, the blind man – crying out from the roadside, desperate to be a part of life again and to regain some independence. (Mark 10:46-47)
7. Jairus – with his daughter sick unto death, desperate, loving, grieving, willing to make any sacrifice for her. (Mat 9:18-26)
8. Woman caught in adultery – his compassion (she was set up, and the guilty man was not arraigned with her) when he sees her shame and smallness. (John 8:1-11)
9. Disciples – he washes their feet and they recoil from his act of demeaning service. (Joh 13:1-13)
10. Tax collectors – he dines with them, and does not reject them as the Jews (and especially the religious leaders) have done for their 'treachery'. (Mat 9:10-13)
11. Children – whom he welcomed and blesses when others tried to send them away. (Mat 19:13-14)
12. Demon possessed individuals which others would shun but Jesus would heal. (Mark 5:1-20)
13. Centurion's servant – healed from a distance because of his astounding faith (Luk 7:1-10)

14. Widow of Nain – he raises her son back to life again because it was the only relative she had. (Luk 7:11-17)

All of these examples demonstrate exactly how the Father would act towards these people, reaching out to the broken, the longing, the hiding, and hoping. In every case, we see deep compassion. It is not merely human empathy but a capacity to see into the depths of the human heart. He sees what others overlook. He notices the forgotten, the marginalized, the dismissed.

In every case, Jesus demonstrates an individual attentiveness. It's personal and specific to the individual he is focused on. He doesn't wave a great wand and heal a hospital of the anonymous sick. It's very personal – individual by individual. Every single person matters – personally.

Every healing miracle in the gospels is a window into the heart of God.

And what do we see when we look at the heart of God? We see that God IS love!

1 John 4:8 "Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. 10 This is love; not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

So when the very presence of God comes to live in us, in the Holy Spirit, then we are going to start exuding the essence of the being who lives in us – the love of God.

Gal 5:22 gives us a sampling of how that love will manifest itself. ".. the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control."

But there is a punctuation inaccuracy here. The footnotes in the NET translation tell us that there probably should be a colon after the word 'love' so that the other qualities mentioned are in fact ways that love expresses itself. In the NIV Study Bible, it points out that the word 'fruit' is singular, not plural. So it reads that the "fruit" (singular) of the Spirit is (not

are) love. That makes joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. ways that love manifests itself in our relationships with one another.

So, as I have mentioned before, God IS love – consists of love, his heart is made of love, his entire nature cannot express itself any other way because that is what he is.

This love expresses itself in healing and making things whole again. Jesus' healings are not random acts of kindness. They are revelations and they show what God is really like.

Jesus love is tender, yet truthful. He does not flatter or avoid difficult conversations. When he tells the rich young ruler who wanted to know what he should do to inherit eternal life (Mat 19:16-22) – to give up his wealth – he is not being harsh but inviting him to give up his current master and enter the freedom of being a disciple of Jesus.

As one commentator put it, Jesus holds grace and truth together in perfect harmony. Love is not sentimental but transformative.

God's love is humble, does not grasp for power, does not demand honour; it gives itself away and chooses service.

At the last meal Jesus had with his disciples before his death, Jesus did something that left the disciples bewildered. "When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. **13** "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **15** **I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.** **16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." (John 13:12-16)

The bottom line is don't get a big head because you know things others don't yet know. We are to be the perfect example of a servant to others – because we have the perfect example in our Lord.

Now let's conclude by going back to the picture I tried to paint at the beginning. Remember the unbelievable gulf between the great God we worship, the Creator of the universe. The Great God who brought life on earth into existence and then as the pinnacle of the great range of life from amoeba to dolphins and on to us, he made us in his image that we might actually have a relationship with him.

Isn't that amazing! The God of the universe wants us to be his company for all eternity. The Great Father who is so far and away above human beings in every conceivable way, came to live with us and became one of us, so he could demonstrate what he was really like to feeble minds who wouldn't get it unless they had God standing visibly in front of them. So that is what he did.

And to reconcile us from the hopeless, desperate disaster we brought upon ourselves by not believing what he said and then choosing to make our own decisions apart from the guidance of he one who brought it all into being, he sent his Son to live a life from conception to death just as we do, and then to show us that there was much more than that.

All of God's love points towards the cross as the ultimate expression of divine love. "Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

On the cross, Jesus bears the sin, shame guilt and judgment of all humanity so that we might be reconciled to God because ….well, you might say because he couldn't live without us. This is the love that stretches out its arms and says. "This is how far I will go to being you home." In Jesus' death we see the depth of God's love, and in his resurrection we see the enormous power of his love.

Jesus says, follow me, and offers forgiveness to the guilty, rest to the weary, hope to the despairing, and life to the dead. He does not invite us into some religion where we can work our way out of our dilemma, but into a relationship – into the very love that flows from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to us, as it has flowed between them for all eternity.

So let's finish with the Jesus's words to the disciples as he was trying to prepare them for his death and resurrection:

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus was the exact reflection of God in human form. But now God asks us to join Jesus in that responsibility and to be his physical visible presence on earth until he returns.

We pray for his help.