



## *Apologetic Fact Sheet 1*

**Key Statement:** ‘Jesus was just a good man.’

**Key Response:** Actually, as C.S. Lewis said, you can only say ‘Jesus was a liar, a lunatic or Lord’.

### **Key Content:**

Realistically there are only three options for deciding who Jesus was.

1. He knew he wasn't God, but said he was, which means he is a liar;
2. He said he was God, thought he was God and believed he was God, but he wasn't and can be called a lunatic; or
3. He was right – he was God.

You must rationally weigh the evidence in various categories in order to assess which one is most probable. For example:

1. *The sorts of things he did:* these included raising Lazarus from the dead and healing a man born blind. These are exceptional claims.
2. *The quality of his teaching:* The Sermon on the Mount includes ‘loving your enemies’, ‘loving your neighbour as yourself’, and ‘doing to others what you would want them to do to you’. There is no better way to live.
3. *The character of Jesus:* under pressure our true character bubbles to the surface. On the cross Jesus entrusted his mother to John's care and asked for forgiveness for those who were crucifying him.
4. *The claims of Old Testament prophecies:* There are 332 predictions regarding Jesus' life and death. In fact on the day of the crucifixion 29 of these were fulfilled. No-one has control of when and where they are born, but the manner and location of Jesus' birth was foretold in advance.
5. *The resurrection:* This event had 500+ witnesses. People have said the body was hidden, but the authorities could not produce it. The lives of the disciples are an extraordinary example of the truth of the claim – no-one will die for a lie. They were transformed from fearful men in hiding to fearless proclaimers of the resurrection.
6. *Personal experience:* Christianity has always had a global following across all ages, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds.

As Sherlock Holmes said: “When you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth”. If the possibilities of being a liar or a lunatic are removed – the only remaining option is, Jesus is who he said he was, the Lord.

*The bulk of the evidence for this defence is based on the Biblical record – this therefore leads into our second sheet discussing the reliability of the text.*