**JESUS THE LAMB & ALEXANDER THE GREAT**

***A Poem & A Question***

Jesus and Alexander, died at thirty-three;

One lived and died for himself, One died for you and me.

“The “Great” died on a mighty throne, “The Lamb” died on a cross;

One’s life a triumph it surely seemed, the Other’s but a loss.

One led vast armies forth in battle, One humbly walked alone;

One shed a world’s crimson blood, the Other gave His own.

One won the world in glorious life, and lost it all in death;

One gave His life to save our soul and bless us with each breath.

Jesus and Alexander, died at thirty-three;

One died rich in Babylon, One with thieves at Calvary.

One gained all for himself, One Himself He gave;

One conquered every throne below, the other every grave.

One made himself a fearful god, God made Himself the less;

One lived but to hate and kill, the Other lived to bless.

When Alexander died, down fell his throne of swords;

But Jesus died and lives again, becoming Lord of lords!

Jesus and Alexander, died at thirty-three;

One made men pitiful slaves, the Other made men free.

One built a kingdom with man’s blood, One built a throne on love;

The one was born of dirt from earth, the Other born from above.

One conquered the world, then lost earth and heaven;

One conquered the flesh, then all to Him was given.

Alexander has forever died, Jesus forever lives;

“The Great” lies buried in a tomb, “The Life” now freely gives.

Jesus and Alexander, died at thirty-three;

Looking back on history, who now would you rather be?

-Anonymous-

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We are often encouraged to “*Live In The Moment*.” That could be good, or bad.

It is good when taken from Jesus’ words, “*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble*” (Matt. 6:34).

It is bad when taken from James’ words, *“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”* (Jam. 4:13-15).

Jesus and Alexander both lived in the moment, but from far different perspectives.

History records Alexander of Macedon, son of king Philip, as “The Great!” By the age of 33 he had conquered much of the civilized world from Europe to Asia. His image was on all coins for thousands of miles, and his status as a brilliant military genius and leader of men had become the stuff of legends. While most men become “the Great” in their minds (think Herod), a few become “the Great” in their times (think Cyrus). Alexander, in just 12 short years, had become “the Great” faster than any man in history.

Contrast that with Jesus of Nazareth. He lived the same number of years as Alexander. He never even conquered a backwater village, much less the known world. He even proclaimed, “*he who lives by the sword, dies by the sword*” (Matt. 26:52). He did rule a kingdom, but it was “*not of this world”* (Jn. 18:36). Pilate saw it as no threat at all to Rome (Jn. 18:38; 19:4,6). He was born in a barn (Lk. 2:7), raised in a ridiculed village (Jn. 1:46), lived as a pauper (Lk. 9:58), put on trial as a blasphemer (Mk. 14:64) and ranked as #1 on Israel’s Most Wanted list (Jn. 11:49-50). He was then executed between two common criminals and buried in a borrowed grave.

When we compare the lives of Alexander and Jesus from the perspective of this world it seems like a no-brainer to envy the life of the Macedonian king over the Nazarene carpenter. The world envies the pomp and ceremony, the fame and fortune, of Alexander “the Great.” If there is no resurrection and no eternity then we will choose to read, and envy, *The Life and Times of Alexander the Great*.

But when we view life from beyond the grave, from here to eternity, then we choose to read, and envy, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Christ*. When Paul said, “*Imitate me even as I imitate Christ*” (I Cor. 11:1), he was calling us to make a choice between two worlds. He was calling us to “live in the moment,” but with our thoughts on Hebrews 9:27, “*for it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*”

My prayer is that the poem you read above will cause you to think soberly about how you will spend your day, and even your life. Satan is forever flashing “*all that is in the world*” before our eyes (I Jn. 2:15-16). He is distracting us from thinking “*on things above*” by thinking “*things on the earth*” (Col. 3:2). He is working overtime (at no pay, for only hell awaits him) to cause you to envy Alexander “the Great” over Jesus “the Lamb.” If the devil can persuade you to “live in the moment,” to eat, drink and be merry (Alexander died in a drunken stupor), you will save your life but lose your soul. But by envying the life of Christ you will lose your life for His sake but gain your soul (Matt. 10:39; 16:25).

You’ve read the poem. Now answer the question:

Jesus and Alexander, died at thirty-three;

Looking back on history, who now would you rather be?

Choose wisely. – Rick