



**Millions of people**

Have you ever thought how many people there are in the world? According to Google there are currently around 8.3 billion. We do not even know anything at all about millions of these. We have never heard of them or know where they live.

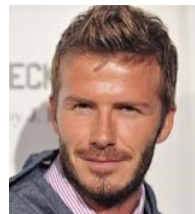
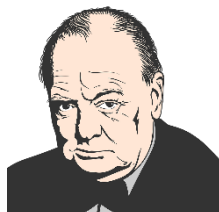
**Thousands of people**

How many thousands of people have we met or seen during our lives? School, college, work, holidays, shopping, walking through town or driving on the motorway. We may have spoken to many of them just to say, "Hello" or "Sorry", if we have accidentally bumped onto them. We know little or nothing about their private lives and many of them we would probably not even recognize if we saw them again.



**Hundreds of people**

There are hundreds of people of whom we have heard, such as world leaders, politicians or sports men and women. We have often seen photos of them on the television or in the newspapers. We are sometimes told of part of their private lives as well as news concerning their current position. Even though we know about these people, it is rarely that we have actually met or seen them any of them.



**Individual people**

We all have close relatives or friends with whom we meet or contact on a regular basis. We know lots about them – and they know lots about us! Some of them live in the same house as ourselves or work with us each day. We share our thoughts and feelings and build up very close relationships.

**Jesus and millions of people**

There are still millions of people in the world who have not yet heard about Jesus. The inference in Matthew 24:14 is that Jesus will not return again to the earth until every nation has heard about Him.

**Jesus and thousands of people**

Jesus is not someone whom we are likely to meet pushing a trolley in the supermarket or see driving a car on the motorway. I wonder if we would recognize Him if we were to meet Him as we walk through the town or if He were to turn up at college, university or the work place. He is one of the thousands of people we will never meet in person whilst we are alive on this earth.

## Jesus and hundreds of people

Hundreds of people know about Jesus and have heard of some of the things that He did and said during His life on earth. When one of our sons became a Christian he said that up to that point Jesus had just been someone whom he had coloured in on his Sunday School papers! We see pictures of Jesus, but none of them are actual photographs.



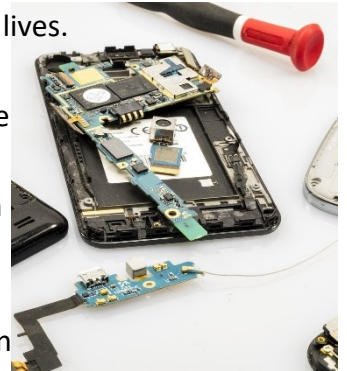
## Jesus and individuals

What about Jesus and each of us as individuals? As it is about 2000 years since He died on the cross and went back to Heaven, it seems impossible that He can have any part in our lives, but is this so? We often tend to look at things in a very factual way so it is fairly easy for us to think of Jesus as a normal human being as He was during His time on earth, but that is not as He is now.

Part of our make-up is that we have a physical body and also a spirit. We are unable to see our spirits in the same way as we can see and feel our arms and legs, yet it is still a very real part of who we are. We look after our physical bodies by eating food. (Not always healthy eating though!) If any part is not working properly or we are in pain we try to do something about it so that our bodies are working 100% okay.

What about the spirit part of us? Are we giving it as much attention as our physical bodies? What does our spirit part help us to do? It is the part of us that connects with God. When God made us He gave us a spirit so that we can commune with Him – which is why He created us. He is pleased that we enjoy taking part in lots of physical activities, but is very sad if He has no part in our lives.

Where does Jesus come into all of this? The spiritual aspect of our lives can be difficult for us to understand because we look at things as human beings, however, we do not have to understand how something works before we can use it. Do we know how our mobile phones work?



We all want to go to Heaven after our death, but we are talking about being in the presence of a holy God, so it is not acceptable for us to be with Him as we are. Jesus came from Heaven to earth for one purpose only. When He died on the cross He took the punishment that we should have for anything wrong that we have done or said in our lives. This means that we can be forgiven; it means that we will be fit to be with a holy God. It means that we are able to have a completely clean slate.

Naturally, for all of the above to happen, although Jesus has already done His part of the process, we also have to do something about it. **We have to ask Jesus to come into the spirit part of our lives and forgive us in order for our side of the process to take place.** There is no other way to put things right with God; it can only be through Jesus. For Jesus it was a once only action that does not have to be repeated and stands for each one of us. For us, as imperfect people, it is a continuing process as He comes into our lives and changes us into the people whom God intended us to be. The spirit part of our lives cannot be neglected, even though we are unable to see it. God loves us and ultimately wants us to be with Him. Salvation, through Jesus is available to everyone, everywhere. No-one is excluded or too bad. **The price has already been paid.**