



## The Word Became Flesh

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### Introduction:

Nancy was four years old. Her parents tried to prepare Nancy for Christmas by talking about the real meaning of Christmas and why the family celebrated it. Nancy had a wonderful Christmas and received a lot of presents and toys she liked. A few days later, Nancy was talking with her brother and telling him what a great time she had at Christmas. Then she added, "I sure hope Mary and Joseph have another baby."

A grandmother was teaching her 10 year old granddaughter about the Bible and God and the Christmas story. She was making good progress until one day the little girl came and said, "Grandma, I have a question about the Christmas Story." Her grandmother thought here is an opportunity to once more reinforce the good news about Jesus birth. "So what's the question", Grandma probed. "Well I want to know which Mary gave birth to Jesus. Was it the Virgin Mary, or the King James Virgin?"

I think we all have a pretty good grasp on the fact that it was the Virgin Mary who yielded to the will of God. It was through Mary that the Word we have been talking about robed Himself in flesh and became like us, so we could be saved. Here are some thoughts about the incarnation that might make us think this morning.

"The incarnation was a historical and unrepeatable event with permanent consequences. Reigning at God's right hand today is the man Christ Jesus, still human as well as divine, though now His humanity has been glorified. Having assumed our human nature, he has never discarded it, and he never will." *John Stott, Authentic Christianity*

"The Word of God, Jesus Christ, on account of His great love for mankind, became what we are in order to make us what he is himself." *IRENAEUS, Adversus Haereses*

"Here the impossible union of spheres of existence is actual, here the past and future are conquered, and reconciled." *T.S. Elliot, The Four Quartets*

"For the incarnation of God to be possible in a Christian sense, God must be able to come over to our side without leaving his own side." *Hans Urs Von Balthasar, Elucidations*

When I look at a baby, I think of the potential that child has. I also think of the parents of that child. It is amazing that when we hold a baby, we are holding the life that God put into that child. We are touching God's handiwork. Imagine how Mary and Joseph felt when Jesus was born. They were actually touching God in flesh.

The Word that we've been talking about in this month of December according to our text became flesh and came to live among us.

God spoke – Jesus was the *expression* of God's thought and heart.

**TEXT: John 1:14**

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**I. The Word was made Flesh**

The expression of God's love and good will toward men was assembled. That expression took form.

Just as God created man in His image at the beginning, now He assembles a body of flesh to live in so He could demonstrate to us God's love for us. It was the only way we could be saved from the curse of sin. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit. When the angel told Mary she would bear a son, and the life that would be in her was of the Holy Spirit, she was without understanding and questioned how God could come down and live in her, and be born of her.

What happened was miraculous. Jesus came because of a decision to love. It was a decision to be God's lamb, to take away the sin of the world. He came to do the will of The Father, and also because of the need of mankind.

So the word was made flesh. Prone to weakness, prone to temptation, submitted to the curse of death, submitted to being weary, to disease and sickness and all the things that our flesh experiences. He also knew the passions of our flesh. Jesus can relate to all that we face, and all that happens in our lives, because as the son of man, He experienced them.

**Psalm 103:14**

For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

**Hebrews 4:15**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin.

This happened just as Isaiah prophesied.

**Isaiah 7: 14**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. In Matthew we have the record of these same words but also the addition of the meaning, Immanuel – God with us.

**II. And Dwelt Among Us**

He lived here, as one who occupied and resided among people. Under the old covenant, God's presence came near the people, but the people could not really get near God.

God met Moses in various places, such as mountains, and in the desert, but generally the place where God met with people was in a tent. It was the place where His presence was recognized and where He approached people. Through God becoming flesh, and dwelling among us, we as people could draw near and approach God.

The Israeli people were privileged to have the visible presence of God seen by them with the pillar of cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night. These signs were a symbol to them of God's protection and communion. They did not have to look anywhere else to know that God would provide for them, lead them, and be in communion with them. We on the other hand, don't have the visible cloud, but we have the record of the written WORD.

**I John 1:1-3**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus was close to His disciples so they could see God in Him. He ate, drank, slept, worked among them and for years they saw Him with their eyes, and touched him with their hands.

Not long after Brian was born, we bought a tent, which we still have, along with a Coleman camp stove, and a cooler, and we did a bit of camping. All I have to say about that is that we haven't been tent camping for years. However, I will say this, when you camp in a tent with other people, you get to be pretty close to them.

To dwell conveys the thought of living with someone. Jesus came and lived in a tent – a body of flesh, and became human. By His doing this He came to

live in a family. So John is saying, Jesus came to live in the tent of flesh, He became part of His creation so we could come near God. He became part of the human family.

### III. We beheld His glory

Imagine that. In writing his narrative, John says here we were able through Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, to see God's glory.

#### **2 Cor. 4:6**

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

First of all John says we saw Him as a man, now He says we saw Him properly as God and man united in one, and God's glory was upon Him.

John is not only thinking of the time when Jesus was born, but no doubt also reflecting in this portion of the gospel, of the time when Jesus was transfigured before Him. Certainly the glory of God was very apparent. But the glory – majesty, divinity, of God

#### **Conclusion:**

Here we are 2,000 years from when Jesus walked on the earth. We still can experience the miracle of His life, of His birth, and of seeing the glory of God.

How is that possible? You see, Christ the WORD of God can still reside in flesh. He is still crushing the head of the serpent, by being born in the hearts of people today. The baby that was born grew up as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He still lives and dwells among us. The scripture tells us: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." **2 Cor. 4:7**

Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, is still ready to dwell in your life. He is still ready to show you the glory, grace and truth that are characteristics of God the Father, and are seen in His life as well.

I trust that you have experienced the WORD. I trust you recognize that God loves you and wants to have relationship with you and that can happen as by faith we trust Him to become the Word dwelling within us.

was also observed in His miraculous birth, his miracles, and his sinless life.

### IV. The Glory as the only begotten of the Father

This is a special way that John describes the relationship of Jesus to God the Father. This term is used by John only 5 times in His writing concerning the Savior. It means literally an only child. In this way as an only child is especially loved by its parents, so Jesus was especially loved by His father.

There are characteristics and traits that children have, that display the glory of their parents. Sometimes the traits are not so glorious, but one can often tell whose parents belong to whose children, by mannerisms, way of expression, the genetics, the resemblance etc.

#### **Col. 2:9**

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. The glory of God was displayed through Christ. All His love, justice, power, peace, grace, truth, every bit of God's fullness and all His characteristics were present in Christ. God's majesty was seen in Human flesh.