

VINELAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

December 21, 2003

The Humiliation of the Christ

Christmas 2003

Luke 1:30-38

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Thursday of this week, December 25th, in the Year of our Lord 2003 many people all over the world will celebrate Christmas. Some people will even think of the birth of Jesus more than the hustle and bustle of the season.

Who is Jesus?

He was called Jesus of Nazareth because, although He was born in Bethlehem, a small town in Judea, He grew up in Nazareth, a town in Galilee, as the Son of a carpenter.

His enemies called Him a glutton and a winebibber and said that He was insane.

Now if what Jesus said about Himself is not the **absolute truth** and if He did not completely fulfill all of the OT Scriptures about the promised Messiah, then His enemies were right; **He was a liar and a lunatic.**

Ah, but if He is who He claimed to be and if the Scriptures are correct that He is the promised One from God then **you** would be insane to ignore His claims of authority.

Jesus claimed to have authority over all flesh! [John 17:2]

One day when Jesus was 30 years old, the age when men born to the priesthood began their priestly duties, this plain looking [He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. Isa 53:2], this physically unattractive Man walked out of His stepfather Joseph's carpenter shop and said, **"I AM GOD!"**

Now of course Jesus did not say **"I AM GOD!"** in those exact words but He immediately set about to demonstrate to the world that He is, in fact, **very God**.

Bear with me and I will tell you the Christmas story.

Let me ask you again, **"Who is Jesus?"**
What do you believe about Jesus?

Polls are popular today, especially in politics. If you want to know what to think just find out what the majority of other people think and follow the herd instinct and go with that.

Most of the candidates for public office will not tell you where they stand on a given issue until some poll tells them what the majority of the people think and then they will tell you what they believe will get them the most votes.

Why don't you take a poll and ask, **"Who is Jesus?"**

Just ask a few people, **"Who is Jesus?"**

Some people will say that He was a good Man, a great teacher, even a prophet of God.

Some others will get to the truth and say, "He is the Son of God."

But then ask them the next question, **"Is He Very God?"**

The correct answer from the Bible is, "Yes, Jesus is very God!"

This morning I will be asking you to find quite a few Bible verses so fall back on your Bible Drill days and listen closely. With the Holy Spirit's unction I can do you some good today.

Jesus Himself asked some Pharisees this same question.

Turn to Matthew 22:41-46

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." 43 He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 44'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"'? 45 If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" 46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Can you answer Jesus' question? **"If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?"**

The Son of David would be the Messiah or the Christ.

The Pharisees never disputed that the genealogy of Jesus was in the line of David and therefore Jesus was **a son** of David. But they rejected Him as **The Son** of David, their Messiah!

If David in the Spirit [under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit] calls his human progeny Lord then David is saying that his human Son is God!

The only way to correctly interpret Jesus' question is to acknowledge that He is both human and divine, two natures in one Person. Man and God in one person.

This is only one of several passages of Scripture that clearly teach that Jesus not only was the promised Messiah, but that **He knew it was so**. He knew who He was and He knew the purpose for which He came into the world.

Since Jesus is very God He must be equal with God the Father in **glory**.

Jesus must then possess the **very glory** of God. Find John 17:1-5.

Meditate briefly on what Jesus claims for Himself as He prays to God the Father.

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the

work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Now turn to 2 Corinthians 4:6.

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Now turn to Isaiah 6:1-5 and John 12:37-41.

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said:

**"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!"**

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 So I said:

**"Woe is me, for I am undone!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King,
The LORD of hosts."**

Who did Isaiah see? Very God!

Now turn to John 12:37-41.

John 12:37-41

But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

**"Lord, who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"**

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

**40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,
Lest they should see with their eyes,**

**Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them."**

41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

**The apostle John writes that when Isaiah saw God that Jesus is the very one that
Isaiah saw. Jesus is God in human form!**

But there was someone who existed before Isaiah saw the LORD and before the one
who Isaiah saw was revealed to John.

It is called the **"BEGINNING"**.

When is the beginning? Genesis 1:1

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form,
and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering
over the face of the waters.**

There is no beginning with God because God is eternal.

The beginning is a reference point for the creation.

Before the beginning in eternity past there was God.

Where was the Christ in the beginning?

Since Jesus is very God He must be **co-eternal** with God the Father.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

WITH GOD? The word is Face to face with God!

AND THE WORD WAS GOD! Whoever the Word is here in verse 1 is God.

The Word is the second person of the Holy Trinity.

Why is He called the **"Word?"**

LOGOS, LOGIC, COMMUNICATION!

Isaiah 55:8-9

**8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.**

**9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

How then is it possible for an infinite Being to communicate with a finite creature?

By His WORD! By His Christ!

And now continue in John 1:2-3

2 He [the Word] was in the beginning with God.

**3 All things were made through Him [the Word],
and without Him [the Word] nothing was made that was made.**

Which bring me to my Christmas message: **The Humiliation of the Christ!**

This is the story of Christmas; God invaded His creation for a purpose.

John 1:14

**And the Word became 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.**

The Word in verse 1 becomes a Man.

Only once in the history of the world was our Savior to suffer **humiliation**.
{Extremely destructive to one's dignity}

Hebrews 12:3 tells us,

"He suffered the contradiction of sinners against Himself." HUMILIATION!

The Pharisees said that He was the child of fornication; they said He was a glutton and a winebibber; they said that He was a liar. The contradiction of wicked men accusing the Holy Son of the Most High God of being as sinful as they were.

HUMILIATION!

HUMILIATION in His BIRTH:

No room at the inn and He is born in a cow stable and placed in a feed trough.

HUMILIATION at the time of MARY'S PURIFICATION:

Simeon holds the Creator in his arms.

HUMILIATION as Joseph flees into Egypt.

King Herod tries to kill Him.

HUMILIATION in His YOUTH:

A carpenter's son from Nazareth; can any good thing come out of Nazareth?

HUMILIATION in His first 30 YEARS:

He made Himself of no reputation.

HUMILIATION in His BAPTISM:

He identified with sinners:

Suffer it to be so now John, for thus it is fitting to fulfill all righteousness.

HUMILIATION in His TEMPTATION in the wilderness:

Satan: "If you are the son of God..."

Evil personified tempting his humility.

HUMILIATION in His RIDICULE:

They said He performed His miracles by the power of Beelzebub.

HUMILIATION in His BEING MADE SIN:

The worst humiliation of all... Father, if it is possible...

To be counted in the rank and order of sinners!

HUMILIATION in His TRIAL:

He was mocked, hit repeatedly, pulled out His beard, spat upon,

Crowned with thorns.

HUMILIATION in His DEATH ON A CROSS:

Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree...

He died as a common criminal.

HUMILIATION in His BURIAL:
Buried in a borrowed tomb.

HUMILIATION!!!

John 13:2-5

2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, **4** rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. **5** After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

Peter understood the humiliation of the Master taking the place of a slave to wash His disciples feet.

John 13:6-8

6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" **7** Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." **8** Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

HUMILIATION!

"He rose from the throne, laid aside His garments of light, took up the poor towel of humility, and wrapped it about His glorious person; poured out His own blood into the basin of the cross; and set Himself to wash away the foul stains of human depravity and guilt." F.B.Meyer

Why must the Christ suffer humiliation?

Since **pride** is the source of sin **humility** must be the antidote.

Can we begin to grasp what God had to do to save a single sinner?

The Christmas story is about the love of God.

John 3:16-21

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

What is the love of God?

1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

The Eternal Word, the Logos, was made in the likeness of sinful flesh on account of sin. This is the One that the Christmas story is about.

Celebrate the birth of the Christ but sinner unless you repent and believe the Gospel it will not be a baby that you will meet at the judgment.

Jesus grew up and He died for sinners. Are you a sinner?
Do you cling to any hope of heaven beside Christ alone?

By the grace of God can you see yourself in need of a Savior who would willingly suffer such **humiliation** in the place of sinners?

That, I believe, is the story of Christmas. Please don't celebrate Christmas without Christ. Merry Christmas.

Jim Gunn