

The Word became flesh
Part 3

The humility of Jesus

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We have been running all of the Gospels, finding treasures that reveal something to us about the humanity of Jesus. Today, on Christmas Eve, I think it is appropriate to that a look at the Humility of Jesus.

1. The Son of God became the Son of Man.

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking on the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient.” Phil 2:5-8

2. The Son of Man became just like us.

The eternal Son of God, “Light of Light, Very God of Very God...one substance with the Father,” spent 9 months developing in Mary’s uterus. Jesus passed through her birth canal on that Christmas morn that we celebrate tomorrow.

He had to learn to walk. The Word of God had to learn to talk. He who calls the stars by name had to learn the names of everything, just as you did. “This is a cup. Can you say cup? Cuup” Or did you think baby Jesus came into the world with the vocabulary of Dictionary.com?

For ages upon ages, his generous hand fed every creature on earth; now it is he that has to be fed, spoon-fed, drooling most of it down his chin like any other baby. The Son of God doesn’t even know

how to tie his shoes. Someone had to teach him how to tie those sandals John the Baptist said none of us were worthy to untie.

“The rabbit does around the tree and down through the hole... Like that, Now you try it.”

Picture 7 year old Jesus out in the shop with Joseph learning how to use a hammer and a saw. He who hung galaxies in such perfect poise, like a hundred billion mobiles, has to be shown how to nail two boards together.

Are you kidding me??? The humility of this is beyond words.

Jesus wasn’t faking it when he took on his humanity.

Think of the implications:

He who never tired, never slumbers, accepted the need for sleep. Every night. How deep was the exhaustion that kept him dozing right through the storm, waves crashing over the boat?

Jesus had to eat, everyday, breakfast, lunch and dinner; he needed to. He had to trim him toenails.

He who clothes the lilies of the field with great glory than Solomon’s splendor had to do his laundry, squatting riverside, rinsing the dust from his worn garments like any other peasant.

What about the humility of simply getting from here to there...by means of *walking*?

(Jesus) “left Judea and went back once more to Galilee” John 4:3 More than 70 miles. A long 3 day walk. If you bypassed Samaria- which most Jews did, it was about 100 miles – 5 hard days.

Bethany to Cana is roughly 60 miles;
Back down to Jerusalem is another 45 plus.

Jesus is making these trip ALL the time. He who once rode “on the wings of the wind” Ps 104:3 is now getting around only as fast as

his two sore feet will carry him. Hours and hours, for days and months upon end, just walking.

Jesus- who is in all places at all times – has to get around one place to another like a guy who can't even come up with bus fare.

The beauty and humility of this is enough to make me weep.

3. The humility of Jesus

When it comes time for Jesus to start his official ministry, here is how he enters public life:

“In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.”

Matthew 3:1-6, 13-16

Thongs are flooding to the Jordan to be baptized by John; the “whole region” is making their way to the river. Jesus files down bankside with the rest of the crowd and takes a place in line.

Nobody gives him a second glance. He's just another sun-baked Jew in robe and sandals, taking his turn in line.

John looks up from his baptizing his 500th person and sees Jesus standing there. He is flabbergasted. He protests: Never in a million years could I do this.” Jesus says, “It's fine. This is a good thing. It's all right.” Then he steps into the river and John dunks him like the rest.

Compare this story to other men who think they have come to change the world:

Roman Emperor Commodus

Saddam Hussein - Iraq

Hafez Assad – Syria

Kim Jung Il, Song, Un – N. Korea

Hitler, Mao

All demigod's who believe that deserved worship or praise.

Yet the only King who ever had the right to be worshipped shows up riverside at somebody's else's revival service and waits his turn in line.

Afterward there is no press conference, no sermon. Jesus just disappears for 40 days, and the only one who seems to notice is the wild Baptist in the camel skin.

The humility of Jesus is breathtaking.

4. The coronation of Jesus

I want us to look at a moment from Jesus' life that will be occurring soon. This story is from the book of Daniel. The Honest Prophet –who spent his adult years an exile serving the Babylonian courts and was given a number of startling glimpses into the future. Here, in my opinion, is the most dazzling of them all:

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14

Perhaps the most joyful, certainly the most triumphant moment in history, second only to the resurrection and with the coronation of Jesus we see the beginning of Heaven, the everlasting summer for men, angels and all of creation.

His crowning ensures the triumph of a kingdom of laughter and beauty and life, forever. But it was a long hard road to that throne. No king has ever taken such a HUMBLE path.

No wonder when Jesus steps into the heavens to accept the throne and the crown the cry goes up,

“Worthy! Worthy! Worthy! Make him King and Lord of everything!”

This man is so worthy.