

The King is Coming – Part 3

Lesson for Sunday, December 15, 2024

TEXT: John 1:14-18

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Ice Breaker: Who has the best Christmas tradition? Have several share. Try to zero in on who has a tradition that points to the true meaning of Christmas.
- ⇒ We are getting closer and closer to Christmas! Amid the busyness of the season, we don't want to forget what Christmas is truly about: Our King is Coming!
- ⇒ In these four weeks, we are diving into John 1 to develop a biblical picture of Who Jesus is. So far, we have discussed:
 - Jesus is eternal and He is God; He is the Creator; He is life (vs. 1-5).
 - Jesus is the Light of the world Who was rejected by some, including His own people. Yet to those who receive Him, He has given the power to become the children of God (vs. 9-13).
- ⇒ Today we will be looking at verses 14-18. Read them together as a class.
 - In these verses, we see John's one-phrase description of Christmas: *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*
 - No greater message could ever be proclaimed to human ears and hearts!

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Jesus Christ dwelt **visibly** among us (vs. 14)
 - a. John went into more detail in his epistle 1 John. Read 1 John 1:1-3. God's eternal Son, the Creator of the universe, came to earth as a man. He became one of us.
 - b. 14a: Jesus became **flesh**.
 - i. John's statement leaves no room for doubt about its meaning: the incarnation did take place!
 - ii. This is a staggering thought! Jesus Christ is God – fully God, yet He is man – fully man.
 - iii. Jesus Christ is beyond question God Himself who became human, Who took on the very same flesh as all other people do.
 - c. 14b: Jesus was seen in His **glory**.
 - i. The words *have seen* or *beheld* means seeing with the human eye. Once again, John is clear. He left no room for anybody to interpret it in any other way.
 - ii. By using the word *glory*, John was referring our minds to the Shekinah glory of God. The word *Shekinah* means "that which dwells." It was a reference to the bright cloud that God used to guide Israel in the wilderness. The cloud symbolized God's presence.
 - iii. This is what John is saying in choosing these words: "We actually saw the Shekinah glory, God's very presence dwelling among us!"
 - iv. Paul writes in Colossians 2:9 that Jesus was the fullness of God in bodily form.
 - d. 14c: Jesus was full of **grace** and **truth**.
 - i. Jesus was the perfect embodiment of grace – God's kindness and unmerited favor.

- ii. He was also the perfect embodiment of truth – His teaching and His sinless life proclaimed and demonstrated God’s truth to the world.
- 2. God’s children have received His **grace upon grace** (vs. 16-17).
 - a. *Fullness* means that which fills completely, the sum total, the totality. It is the sum total of all that is in God (see Colossians 1:19).
 - i. In Jesus dwelt all the wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption – all the abundance of God (1 Corinthians 1:30).
 - ii. All that Christ is, the very fullness of His being, is given to believers. We are complete in Him (see Colossians 2:9-10)!
 - b. The term *grace upon grace* means that He gives grace on top of grace! Grace enough to meet all our needs, no matter the circumstances.
 - i. 17a: God’s grace does not come by law. It is not a result of being good in ourselves or working hard to please God.
 - ii. 17b: God’s grace and blessing come through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the demonstration of God’s grace. Through the incarnation, we see God’s great love, mercy and grace.
- 3. God has **revealed** Himself through Jesus Christ (vs. 18).
 - a. In his writings, John presents three facts concerning this revelation of God to humanity:
 - b. First, no person had ever seen God at any time (John 5:37).
 - c. Second, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, is the One and Only Son of God (John 1:14; 3:16).
 - d. Third, Jesus came to reveal and to proclaim the Father (John 14:6; Revelation 14:7).

APPLICATION/DISCUSSION:

- ⇒ Every person either believes the incarnation or they don’t. The greatest question that each individual must answer is the question that Jesus asked the Pharisees in Matthew 22:42: *What do you think of Christ? Whose Son is He?*
- ⇒ Jesus asked His disciples in Matthew 16:15, *Who do you say that I am?*
- ⇒ Our eternal destiny rests on how we answer this question.
- ⇒ Are we beginning to understand the significance of the miracle of the incarnation? Everything else we believe rests on this being true.

NEXT WEEK: John 1:19-28