

AT THE FEET OF JESUS
The Incarnation of Christ
John 1:1-5, 14

INTRODUCTION

- A. The time of year when much of the world's attention is turned to Christ's birth.
 - 1. Prophecies of old, Isaiah 9:6.
 - 2. The angel's proclamation to Joseph, Matthew 1:21, 23.
- A. The incarnation of Christ is one of the most magnificent facts of all history.
- B. It is the fact which bridged the gap between God and man.
 - 1. The story – God Decided to Take on Skin

I. WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

- A. No one preceded Him who was His equal and His like has never been seen since.
 - 1. Gabriel's statement to Mary, Luke 1:35.
 - 2. Angels to the shepherds, Luke 2:11.
 - 3. Claims of Jesus: Jn. 6:38; 12:49
 - 4. His miracles – unmatched; healing the sick, calming the storm, raising the dead.
 - 5. His messages tell of His divinity – always pointing to heaven.

II. WHY DID HE COME CLOTHED IN HUMANITY?

- A. Adam was made in the image of God, Gen. 1:27; 5:1.
 - 1. After the transgression, Seth was born in the image of Adam, Genesis 5:3.
 - 2. The penalty of sin – Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23.
- B. After the sin of Adam and Eve, it seems to have been two or three hundred years before man called upon God in prayer, Genesis 4:26.
 - 1. After this, Enoch walked with God (Gen. 5:22-24) but there was not the closeness there had been before sin entered the world.
- C. Since the penalty of sin is death – someone had to pay the penalty that had no sin of his own, Isaiah 53:4-6.
 - 1. Could this have been done without the life and death of Jesus?
 - 2. Evidently not or God would have done it a better way.
- D. He came as a result of man's ignorance, guilt and mortality.
 - 1. Job asked, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14) NO ANSWER.
 - 2. Socrates and Plato wrestled with the same question.
 - 3. The answer came when Christ was raised from the dead.
- E. Christ came to show us the Father.
 - 1. Man has desired to see God ever since he was banished from the garden.
 - 2. John 14:5-9
- F. He came to preach good tidings, Luke 4:18-19 (cf. Isa. 61:1-2).

III. CHRIST'S INFLUENCE ON THE LIFE OF MAN.

- A. Influence upon childhood.
 - 1. He was a model of humility from the cradle to the grave.
 - 2. He was industrious, Luke 2:49.
 - a. Not only in His heavenly Father's business.
 - b. He was raised as a carpenter, Mark 6:3.
 - 3. He was obedient to His parents, Luke 2:51-52; Eph. 6:1-2.

- B. Influence upon women.
 - 1. Before Christ came, women were in slavery; often, no more than property.
 - 2. His teachings have lifted her up to be a companion rather than a subordinate.
 - a. A return to God's original plan!
 - b. Genesis 2:18, 20 – a helpmeet for man.
- C. Influence on the home.
 - 1. He emphasized the worthiness of the home.
 - 2. He stressed:
 - a. The permanence of marriage, Matthew 19:3-9.
 - b. The importance of love, Matt. 22:39; John 13:34-35.
 - c. The relationship which should be between parents and child, Eph. 6:1-4.
- D. Influence on social customs.
 - 1. A new sacredness to human life – under some teachings, life is nothing.
 - 2. Marriage – today divorce is on the increase, but not because of Christ.
 - 3. In government and law.
 - a. Even though this is not a Christian nation, the influence of the teachings of Christ can still be seen all around us.
 - 4. He would have a great influence upon war if His teachings were followed.

CLOSING

- A. God became flesh and dwelt among us, so that we might become more and more like Him.

GOD DECIDED TO TAKE ON SKIN

A little boy could not get to sleep. Finally, he dozed off but all of a sudden he woke up in a nightmare.

His father came to comfort him. The room was dark and the boy was terribly frightened. The father said to him, "God will watch over you. Don't be afraid. I'm going downstairs, but God will be with you."

In reply the boy said, "I want a God that's got skin on."

The reason why God who has always been spirit, became man was so that we may be able to know and touch Him and realize He is a person instead OF MERELY AN IDEA.

Paul, speaking to the Athenian philosophers, said, "...that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope [feel] for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us" (*Acts 17:27*).

The word translated "feel" means "to touch". 1 John 1:1