

## **God Speaks Series – Part 4**

### **God Speaks Through Jesus**

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Today we wrap up our series called “**God Speaks**”. We have been exploring the ways God has spoken throughout history and how he still speaks today.

We discovered as God’s children, as his sheep, that we can hear the voice of our shepherd. **God still speaks today to his children.**

He speaks through the Bible, angels, dreams, vision, spiritual gifts, nature, and through his Spirit in us. There is no limit to the ways God speaks.

**But the greatest way God has spoken to humanity is through his son, Jesus.**

**Hebrews 1:1-4**

**1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.**

In the past God spoke primarily through frail, imperfect human beings. Trying to communicate his love **through people who struggled to love**. Trying to reveal himself **through the minds of people with extremely limited understanding of who he is and what he is really like**.

So, he decides to communicate directly with us by coming to earth himself. **He would talk with us face to face**. He would show us who he really is. So, he comes as one of us. As a baby, as Luke describes for us in his gospel.

**Luke 2:4-7 Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and**

line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

We call the birth of Christ **the incarnation**. Incarnation means Jesus became human. He took on a physical body.

John puts it this way: **John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

God took on human form so we could hear his voice. So he could demonstrate his amazing love and grace to us face to face.

Why the incarnation? Why Christmas? Why did Jesus come as one of us?

### **1. Jesus became human so he could empathize and relate to us.**

Did you ever have the thought that God really doesn't understand what you are going through? After all he is all powerful God and we are weak humans. How can he really know what we feel and experience?

That's what Christmas is all about. That's the wonderful story of the incarnation.

**God really does know what it like to be human**, to suffer, to be tempted, to be rejected, to be hungry, to be cold, and to be like you.

As the Christ child, Jesus was **fully God**, but he was also **fully human**. When he came to earth, he laid down his heavenly glory and position to experience life with us as one of us.

He fully entered the whole human experience by becoming a baby, and going through the growth pains as a child, as an adolescence, as a teenager, as a young adult and then an adult **so he could understand us and relate to us.**

**He understands** what it feels like to be misunderstood. **He understands** the challenges of relationships. **He understands** both joy and sorrow. The bible says he was well acquainted with grief.

He came as baby to experience our life so he could intercede and pray for us more effectively. **He understands!** You can tell him how you feel, and he can relate.

**Hebrews 2:17-18** <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

He empathizes with us this morning. He understands our human struggles because he became like us and lived with us.

**Story of Frank:** Frank who lived in California had a son who was a homeless drug addict living on the streets somewhere in Denver. He knew if his son didn't get help, he would die on the streets. So, he decided to try to find his son and try to rescue him from his destructive lifestyle. But how do you convince someone to receive your help? Frank decides to find him and live with him on the streets.

Frank described the moment he met his son on the street in Denver:

*“He has no idea that I'm walking towards him. I can see that he can't stand up without the support of a building. He would appear drunk to most people. To his dad, though, I know from past experience, sadly he's on heroin—heavy. I go up to him, and he starts to turn his back on me. I don't even care. I just grab him and squeeze him as hard as I can.*

*For a week, Frank became his son's shadow, wandering the streets during the day and sleeping on the banks of a river at night. He grew a beard, ate hand-out sandwiches during the day, and swatted away the rats at night. Meanwhile, his son got sick, in and out of the hospital, stealing to buy more drugs. At one point, Frank told his son, “If you die, your mom and dad die with you. We might still be here breathing. But make no mistake, we'll be dead inside.”*

*When asked why he did it, Frank said, “The only thing I could think of was just go there, be with him and love him. Show him how much his family loves him.”*

This father was willing to descend into homelessness and the filth and danger of the streets to experience life with his son because of his great love for him and desire to save him out of his destructive lifestyle.

**This is the story of Christmas.** Jesus was willing to enter the evil of our world to connect with our pain and to save us. To let us know how much we are loved.

Which brings us to the second reason for Christmas.

## **2. Jesus became human so he could become our substitute and pay the penalty for our sins on the cross.**

Jesus knew his mission was to come to earth to die on a cross for our sins. To redeem us. To buy us back from the devil who had laid claim to the souls of humanity because of their sin.

That is why the father send his son. It was to make final payment for our sin by dying on the cross.

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

He took our place on the cross as the one and only human who had lived a sinless life and was therefore qualified to be our substitute and purchase our pardon.

**Today, if you put your faith in Jesus Christ your sins will be forgiven, and you will be given eternal life with God.**

This is the true message of Christmas. Jesus came to earth on a divine rescue mission to rescue, save us and to set us free.

The message and love of Christmas lives on today.

## **3. Jesus wants to continue to touch our broken world through us.**

There is a sense in which he asks us **to be incarnate** to our neighbors and world.

Just like he entered our world and identified with us in our brokenness, so he sends us to do the same on his behalf. **He wants to live the incarnate life through us. He wants people to hear his voice and feel his love through us.**

He wants us to identify with the weak, the addicted and poor as well as those trapped in the delusion and pursuit of materialism.

We are to let his light shine through us.

**Matthew 5:14-16** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**John Stott, English Anglican priest and theologian who was noted as a leader of the worldwide evangelical movement.** – *“I know something about the growing dishonesty, corruption, immorality, violence, pornography, the diminishing respect for human life, and the increase in abortion.*

*Whose fault is it? Let me put it like this: if the house is dark at night, there is no sense in blaming the house. That's what happens when the sun goes down. The question to ask is, "Where is the light?"*

*If meat goes bad, there is no sense in blaming the meat. That is what happens when the bacteria are allowed to breed unchecked. The question to ask is, "Where is the salt?"*

*If society becomes corrupt like a dark night or stinking fish, there's no sense in blaming society. That's what happens when fallen human society is left to itself and human evil is unrestrained and unchecked. The question to ask is "Where is the church?"*

**Our theme for our Christmas Eve services this year is Light of the World.** He is the light and his light is reflected through us to the people around us.

**Let's let our lights shine brightly** as we go into 2020. Let's not be intimidated.

**Let's keep speaking of the light in us.** Let's keep sharing our faith. Let's keep reaching out to the broken. Let's keep sending missionaries.

**For Jesus is the hope for all mankind.**

**Closing Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Go and let your light shine  
Go and let the incarnate one touch the world through you  
Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
That Jesus Christ is born