

## A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title  
The Word Became Flesh  
John 1:14-18

Slide 2:  
John 1:14-18 (ESV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.' ") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Slide 3:  
The most explosive verse in all of scripture:  
"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory"

Slide 4:  
Four Scenic Pullovers  
1) The Word  
2) Became flesh  
3) Dwelt among us  
4) We have gazed upon His glory

Slide 5:  
The Word

A "word" is the best revelation of what is hidden.

Slide 6:  
Became Flesh

Slide 7:  
**a) God came into vulnerability, as a Vulnerable One**

Slide 8:  
"That a God should put up with adversity, I could understand. The gods of Hinduism face their fair share of thieves, bullies, kidnappers and usurpers."

Adversity, yes. Reversals of fortune, yes. Treachery, yes.

But **humiliation? Death?**

I couldn't imagine Lord Krishna consenting to be stripped naked, whipped, mocked, dragged through the streets and, to top it off, crucified - and at the hands of mere humans, to boot.

I'd never heard of a Hindu god dying. Devils and monsters did, as did mortals, by the thousands and millions - that's what they were there for. Matter, too, fell away.

But Divinity should not be blighted by death. It's wrong. It was wrong of this Christian God to let His avatar die. That is tantamount to letting a part of Himself die. Once a dead God, always a dead God, even resurrected. The Son must have the taste of death forever in His mouth. The Trinity must be tainted by it; there must be a certain stench at the right hand of God the Father.

Why would God wish that upon Himself? Why not leave death to the mortals? Why make dirty what is beautiful, spoil what is perfect?

Love.

That was Father Martin's answer."

Life of Pi

Slide 9:

- a) God came into vulnerability, as a Vulnerable One
- b) God needed to get under what He needed to lift

Slide 10:

Hebrews 2:14,17-18 (ESV)

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Slide 11:

It's not that hurting people don't want to be around healthy people. Awakened people don't want to be around unawakened people.

Slide 12:

Dwelt Among Us

Slide 13:

When Jesus says he is the temple, and John says He came as the tabernacle, it was saying that Jesus was replacing Judaism, not through rejection, but through fulfillment. Jesus came to replace ALL religion.

Slide 14:

We Gazed Upon His Glory

***Jesus made God accessible***

Slide 15:

Magic is all around us

## **B. GROUP DISCUSSION**

1) Read John 1:14-18. Read it again. What are you seeing in the text that speaks to your heart?

2) The Word: In what ways are words a fuller expression and revelation of truth?

Talk about this in terms of God revealing Himself in the greatest way possible.

3) Became Flesh: Do you understand how every other religion finds it so offensive that God became vulnerable enough to be killed? How does it help us in times of temptation and despair that Jesus was actually like us in every way?

4) Dwelt Among Us: What are the implications of Jesus' claim to be the temple, and John's claim that He was the tabernacle? Have we considered how beautiful or blasphemous this would have been to a 1st century Jew? What does it mean to us?

5) We Have Seen His Glory: What does that mean? How has the fatal nature of God been bridged to become accessible through Jesus?

6) Prayer and praise