DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

The first four sermons in our Advent series come from the first chapter of Luke's gospel, from the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about what her son would be and do.

So far we've seen that Gabriel tells Mary her son will be the Savior and the King.

In this week's text, the angel Gabriel provides more information for Mary about her Son. In answer to Mary's question about how she is to bear a son since she is unmarried, Gabriel tells her:

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. (Luke 1:35).

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

The sermon uses several cross-references. What extra light do these texts shine on our text?

- 1. Hebrews 1:1-4
- 2. John 1:1-5
- 3. Colossians 1:16-19
- 4. John 5:21-23
- 5. Philippians 2:5-6, 9-11

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DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

1. We read titles like "Son of the Most High" (v. 32) and "the Son of God" (v. 35) and rightly see in them the deity of Christ: these titles claim that Christ was God's own Son, made of the same eternal stuff as the Father. But Jesus is not the only one described as a son of God; all who have put their faith in Christ are also sons and daughters of God.

New Testament writers often use a **special phrase** to indicate that the Sonship of Christ is essentially different from our sonship. That phrase is variously translated "only begotten" or "one and only" (e.g., John 3:16). How is our sonship different from the "one and only" Sonship of Christ?

- 2. Because Jesus is fully God and fully man, we are always in danger of emphasizing one aspect of his nature and slighting the other.
 - What theological problems do we create if we understate the fact that Jesus was fully man?
 - What problems do we create if we understate the fact that Jesus is fully God (the "Son of the Most High")?

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

What are the **implications** if the Son of Mary is also the Son of God? What difference does that make in our Monday-Friday life? ...in our home life? ...in our thought life, our ambitions, our anxieties? ...in our relationships with people who are far from God?