

"GOD CAME NEAR"

John 1:14-18

- Often times we think of the incarnation as a time when Christ came to know us. - (TRUE)

Hebrews 4:15 - "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." (He came to understand our temptation)

Hebrews 2:18 - "For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted." (Now He knows how to help)

NO DOUBT CHRIST LEARNED ABOUT US - TO BE OUR HIGH PRIEST

★ BUT THE INCARNATION IS ALSO ABOUT US LEARNING ABOUT GOD.

(There has never been a better explanation of God than Jesus)

JESUS IS THE EMBODIMENT OF GLORY

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

"The Word" (John 1:1)

- His Eternal Reign - "in the beginning was the Word"
- His Supernal Status - "The Word was with God"
- His Supernatural Nature - "The Word was God"

Now - "dwelt among us" - The obvious question is

WHY?

"TO SHOW YOU GLORY"

Saw His glory some:

Sinai ~ (Ex 24:16) - "The glory of the Lord rested on Mt. Sinai..."

BUT YOU CAN'T SEE IT ALL

Moses came this closest

UNTIL JESUS

"We saw His glory"
T.T. (Matt 17:1-5)

★ To show you His glory is to show you all that He is.
- God held nothing back

IN JESUS WE SAW ALL THE GLORY OF GOD

★ WE KNEW HE WAS GOD MADE FLESH

"We wouldn't know Glory if it weren't for Jesus."

JESUS IS THE EPITOME OF GREATNESS

15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"

First need to understand greatness of John

People regarded John - (Matt 11:25-26)

Herod feared John - (Matt 14:1-2)

Jesus commended John - (Matt 11:11)

★ A GREAT MAN
- not materialistic
- not a glory seeker
- not a people pleaser

JOHN WAS A
MODEL OF
GREATNESS

Eternal - "He existed before me"

Saints - "yet w/o sin" (Heb 4:15)

Selfless - "did not consider equality..." (Phil 2)

Submissive - "obedient to death..."

Powerful - "healed every..."

T.T. - (John 7:31) (John 21:25)

★ We wouldn't know greatness if it weren't for Jesus.

[Who else would you follow?]

BUT JESUS WAS THE EPITOME OF GREATNESS!

JESUS IS THE ESSENCE OF GRACE

"For of His fullness we have all received"
(we have seen what filled Him)

④ Saw Him in every possible situation +
time and time again we saw what filled
Him

16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

> "grace upon grace" → Jesus is full of grace.
Have you ever known Him to run out of it?

WE DIDN'T KNOW GRACE BEFORE JESUS

We only had Law (no grace, only justice)

JESUS GAVE GRACE

(Rom. 5: 20-21) (Rom 8:14)

(Eph. 2:14)

• If Jesus hadn't come, we wouldn't know
(Glory - Greatness - Grace)

JESUS IS THE EXPLANATION OF GOD

We wouldn't know God.

* JESUS IS THE GREATEST TEACHING
ON GOD THERE IS

(John 14: 8-11) (Col. 1:15)
(Heb. 1:3)

18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

"He has explained Him."

→ If you want to know about God,
look at Jesus.

- What angers Him
- What grieves Him
- What impresses Him

Christmas is more than God coming to know you.
It is Him coming so you can know Him.

④ He did His part, now you do yours!