

He Dwelt Among Us!

Our Text: **John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Have we ever had to get our house ready for someone that is going to come and stay with us for a while?

- Make sure we set aside time to be with the visitors.
- Make sure we have enough food.
- Make sure we clean things that don't always get cleaned.
- Make sure there is a comfortable place for them to rest.

But what happens when a guest shows up unexpectedly?

That's exactly what happened when Jesus came to Bethlehem:

- Most were not expecting Him and so they just went about their normal busy lives.
- There was no room for Him in the inn.
- They made Him sleep in a stable in what was probably a feeding trough.
- To use a Christmas Carol, **THERE WAS NO COMFORT AND NO JOY!!!**

Fully knowing this was going to be the case, **GOD SENT HIS SON ANYWAY!!!**

“Consider the gift that God gave that first Christmas for a moment, what Jesus really did.

- ***He swapped a spotless castle for a grimy stable.***
- ***He exchanged the worship of angels for the company of killers.***
- ***He could hold the universe in his palm but gave it up to float in the womb of a maiden.***
- ***If you were God, would you sleep on straw, nurse from a breast, and be clothed in a diaper? Christ did.***
- ***If you knew that only a few would care that you came, would you still come?***
- ***If you knew that those you loved would laugh in your face, would you still care?***
- ***If you knew that the tongues you made would mock you, the mouths you made would spit at you, the hands you made would crucify you, would you still make them? Christ did.***
- ***Would you regard the immobile and invalid more important than yourself? Jesus did.***
- ***He humbled himself.***
- ***He went from commanding angels to sleeping in the straw.***
- ***From holding stars to clutching Marys finger.***
- ***The palm that held the universe took the nail of a soldier.***

Why?

- ***Because that's what love does.***
- ***It puts the beloved before itself.***
- ***Our souls was more important than His blood.***
- ***Our eternal life was more important than His earthly life.***
- ***Our place in heaven was more important to him than His place in heaven, so He gave up His so you and I could have ours!***

- ***That's what extravagant giving is all about-love, God's love.***
- ***A love that knows no bounds, no limits, no end.***
- ***The Christmas kind of love.***
- ***The type of love we are commanded to give to others: "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. just as I have loved you, you should love each other" (John 13:34).***
- ***A love worth giving to others. To you."***

What we have here in John 1:14 is the most concise biblical statement of the Incarnation of Jesus, and therefore one of Scripture's most significant verses . . . **ESPECIALLY AT CHRISTMAS TIME!**

The Word Became Flesh!

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

5 words: ***"And the Word became flesh . . ."***

Think about what these 5 words represent:

- **God took on humanity!**
- **The infinite became finite!**
- **Eternity entered time!**
- **The invisible became visible!**
- **The Creator entered His creation!**

Up to this point, God had revealed Himself to man in several ways:

- In the creation: (*Romans 1:18–21*)
- In the Old Testament Scriptures: (*2 Timothy 3:16: 2 Peter 1:20–21*)

And now, supremely and most clearly, in Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 1:1–2 *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

Paul wrote about it:

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

In fact, this **Incarnation** is what Charles Wesley also captured in his majestic hymn “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”:

***“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.”***

Now this is all absolutely awesome, and us “**Bible geeks**” can get theological on this topic for hours . . . But for a brief moment tonight, I want to focus on the next part of the verse:

And Dwelt Among Us!

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

THIS IS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT!!!

The eternal Son not only became man . . . **BUT HE ALSO DWELT AMONG US FOR 33 YEARS!!!**

Dwelt = σκηνώω skēnoō = To pitch a tent. To set up camp.

When Jesus came to this earth, He wasn't just “**stopping in to show face.**”

He took on all the essential attributes of humanity:

Philippians 2:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

So, the God of the universe came down to this sick, sin-infested earth, and **HE PITCHED HIS TENT AMONG US!!!**

- He was born like us!
- He ate with us!
- He worked like us!
- He mourned and cried like us!
- He even died like us!

In short, **JESUS WENT THROUGH THE TOTAL HUMAN EXPERIENCE** (*yet, without sin*) **SO THAT HE COULD BE THE PERFECT REDEEMER FOR HUMANS!!!**

- In the Old Testament, God “**tented**” with Israel through His glorious presence in the tabernacle (*Exodus 40:34–35*)
- Later, He did the same thing in the temple (*1 Kings 8:10–11*)
- But we cannot forget that God will again “**tent**” with His people in eternity:
Revelation 21:3–4 *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

ARE WE READY FOR THIS?! The world was shocked when He came the first time, but there should be no surprise when He comes the second time **BECAUSE HE TOLD US HE IS COMING!!!**

We Beheld His Glory!

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, **and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.***

It is true that Jesus manifested God’s divine “**glory**” during His earthly life with a clarity never before seen . . . But it was still veiled by His human flesh.

But those closest to Him, the disciples, saw Jesus manifest God’s holy nature in several ways:

- **Truth**
- **Wisdom**
- **Love**
- **Grace**
- **Knowledge**
- **Power**
- **Holiness**

This all validated that **He was God’s Son, the Messiah, the Savior of the world!**

Colossians 2:9 *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;*

But according to our verse, the two attributes He wanted to reveal the most (*which are the most closely connected with salvation*) are “**grace and truth**”!

Just ponder these two fundamental truths:

- **SALVATION COMES BY WHOLLY BELIEVING IN GOD’S TRUTH!!!**
- **AND THE ONLY WAY THIS HAPPENS IS BY RECEIVING HIS SAVING GRACE!!!**

Does He Dwell Within Us?!

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

We have to answer this question! So here is the Christmas Gospel:

- **Jesus Christ was the full expression of God's grace.**
- **All the necessary truth to save is available in Him.**
- **He was the full expression of God's truth, which was only partially revealed in the Old Testament.**
- **But now it has been FULLY revealed in the New Testament in the Person of Jesus Christ!**

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

John 8:31–32 *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Jesus Himself warned:

John 8:24 *Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."*

So I will say this as plainly as I possibly can . . . it doesn't matter if we know about a baby named Jesus who wants to forgive our sins and dwell in us . . . **WHAT MATTERS IS IF HE IS ACTUALLY DWELLING IN US NOW!!!**

Let's pray . . .