

Incarnate

2025Dec28 Dan Fisher - Incarnate (Part 4)

Pt 1: “God becomes flesh – a great mystery”

Pt 2: “That baby in the manger really was God”

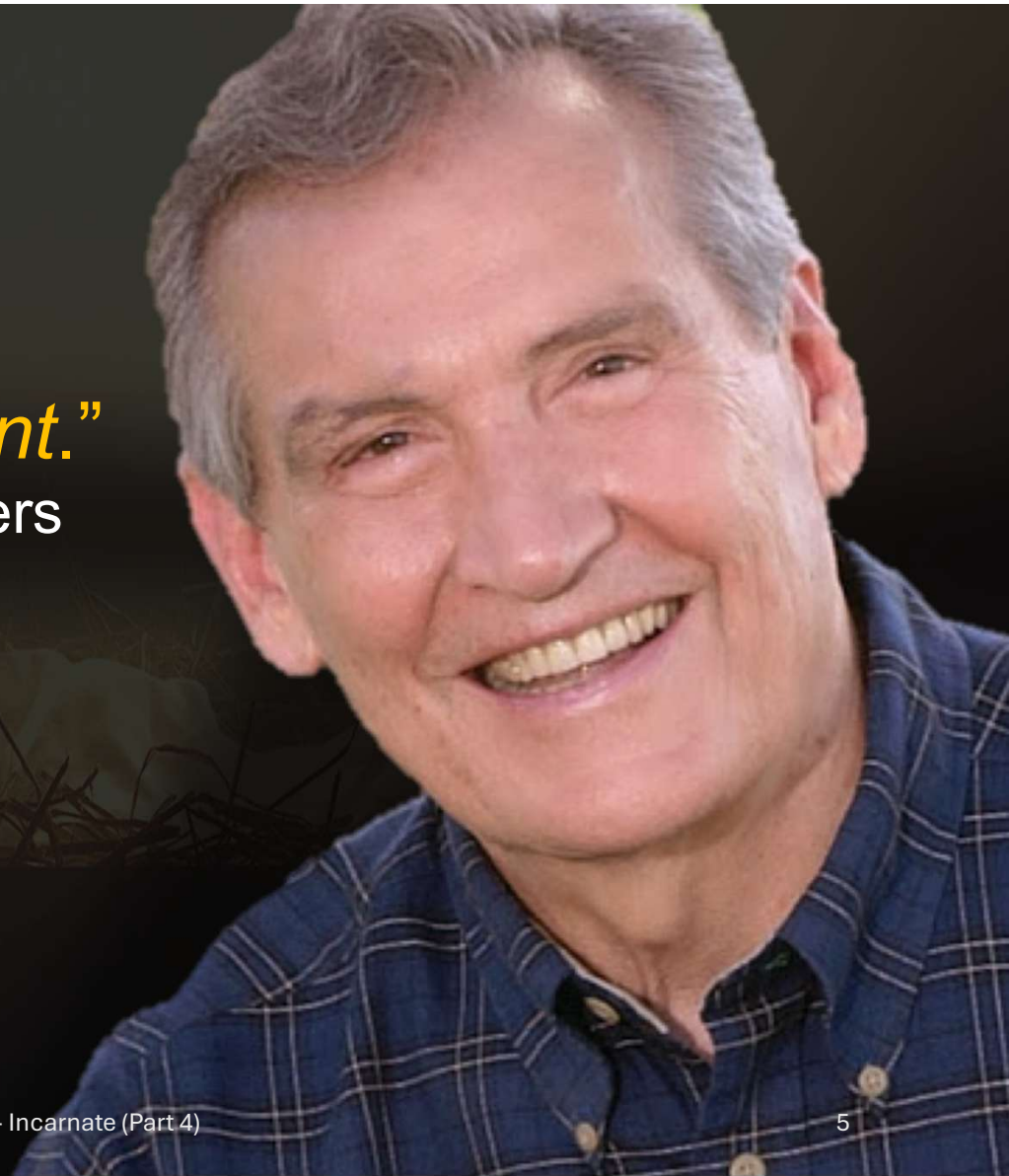
Pt 3: “The first step of an agonizing descent”

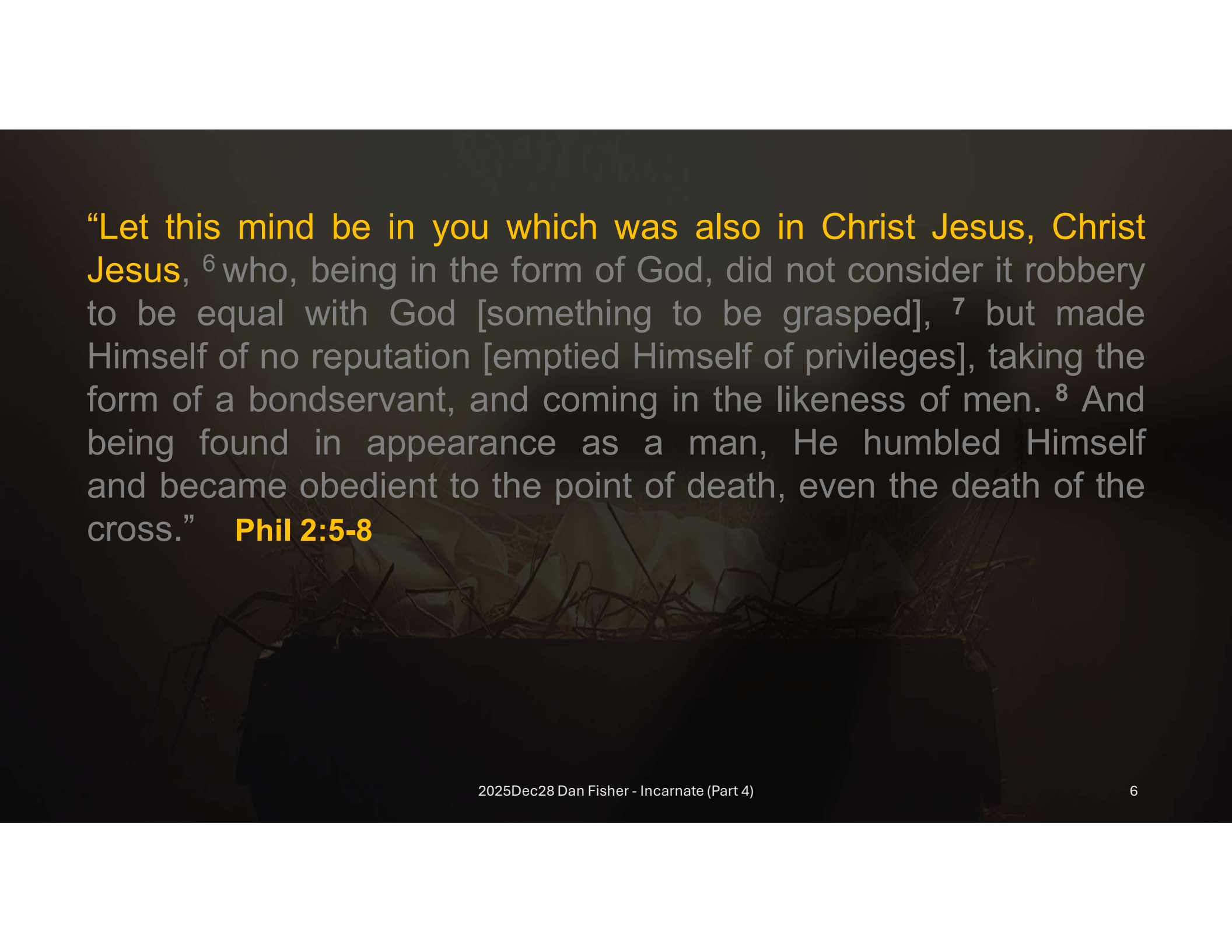
Incarnate

**Pt 4: When “The word”
becomes flesh**

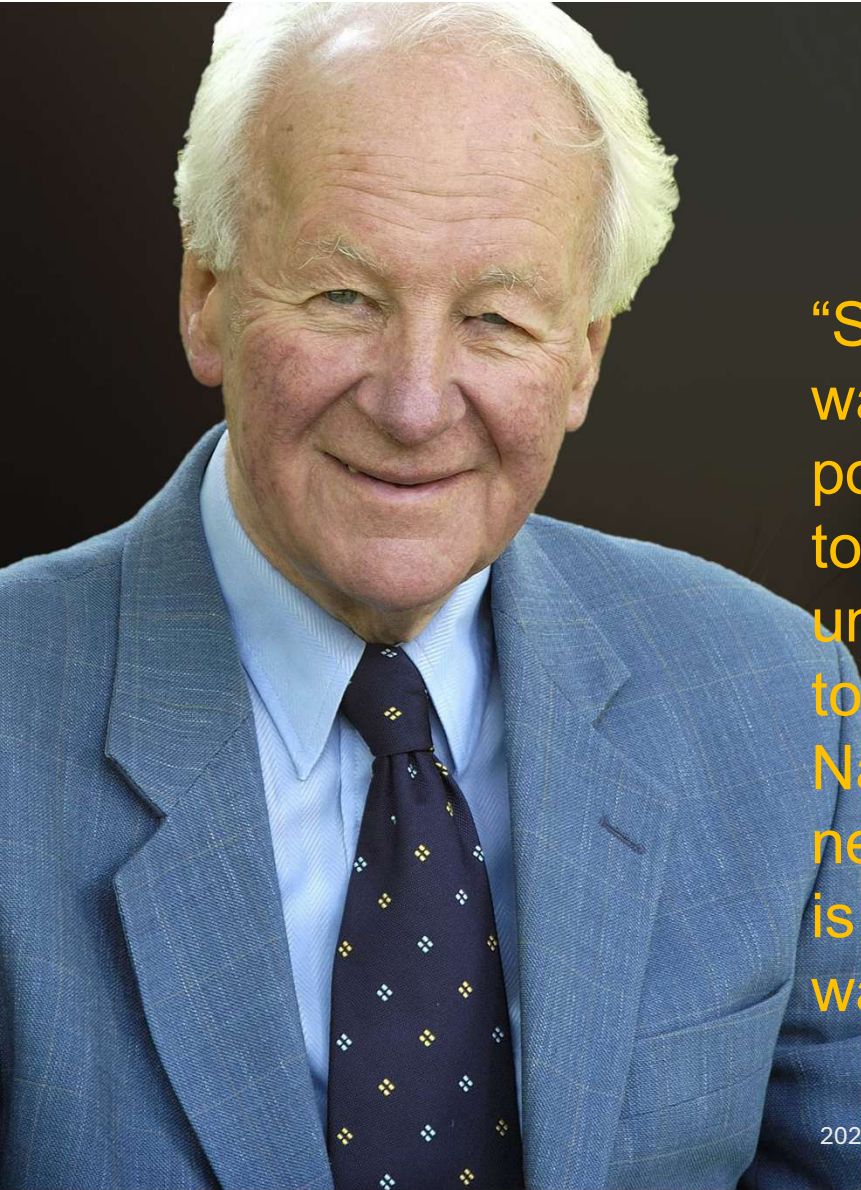
And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:
God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by
angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world,
received up in glory. **1 Tim 3:16**

“The *Infinite* became an *infant*.”
Adrian Rogers



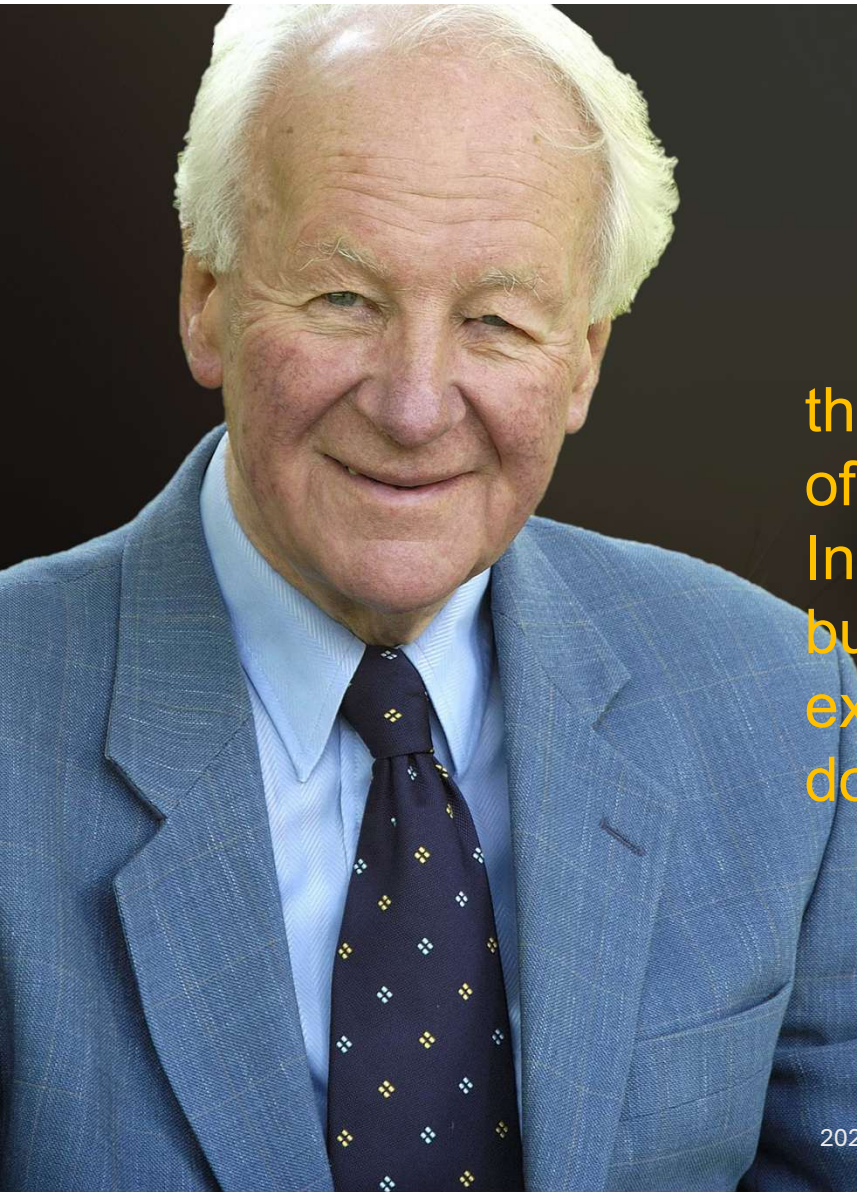


“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God [something to be grasped], ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation [emptied Himself of privileges], taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” **Phil 2:5-8**



John Stott, “Becoming more like Christ”:

“Surely, you will say to me, the Incarnation was an altogether unique event and cannot possibly be imitated in any way? My answer to that question is yes and no. Yes, it was unique, in the sense that the Son of God took our humanity to himself in Jesus of Nazareth, once and for all and forever, never to be repeated. That is true. But there is another sense in which the Incarnation was not unique ...

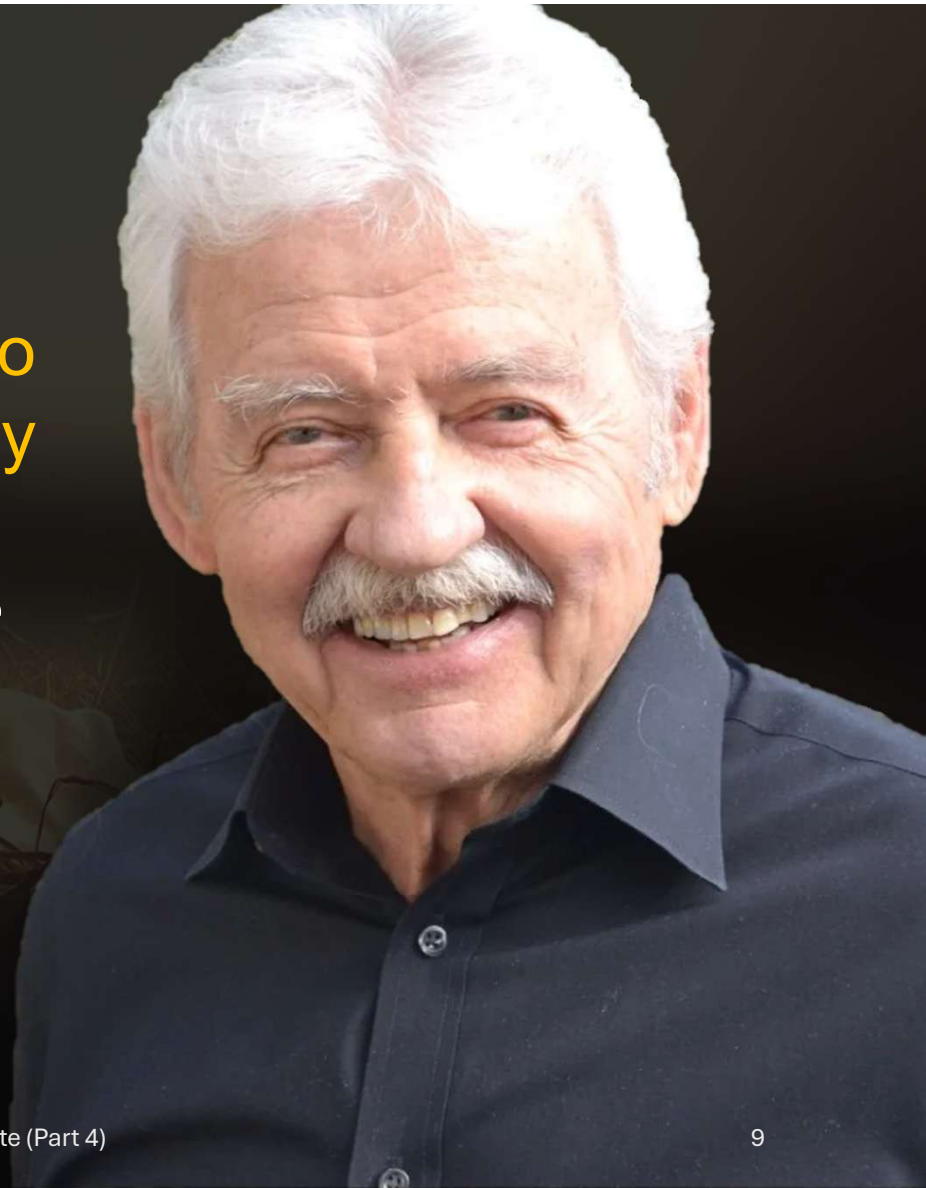


the amazing grace of God in the Incarnation of Christ is to be followed by all of us. The Incarnation, in that sense, was not unique but universal. We are all called to follow the example of His great humility in coming down from heaven to earth.”

John Stott: “The Model – Becoming More Like Christ,” Keswick Convention July 17, 2007
<https://youngdisciples.org/john-stotts-final-sermon-the-model-becoming-more-like-christ/>

“To witness with our lives is to incarnate the gospel by the way we live.”

Jim Peterson, *Evangelism as a Lifestyle*



“And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, ... ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” **Jn 17:11,18**

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.” **1 Jn 4:17**



1. **We are intended to be Christ to this world**

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” **Rom 8:29**

“You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³ And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” **2 Cor 3:2-3**

2. **We are incapable of being Christ to this world**

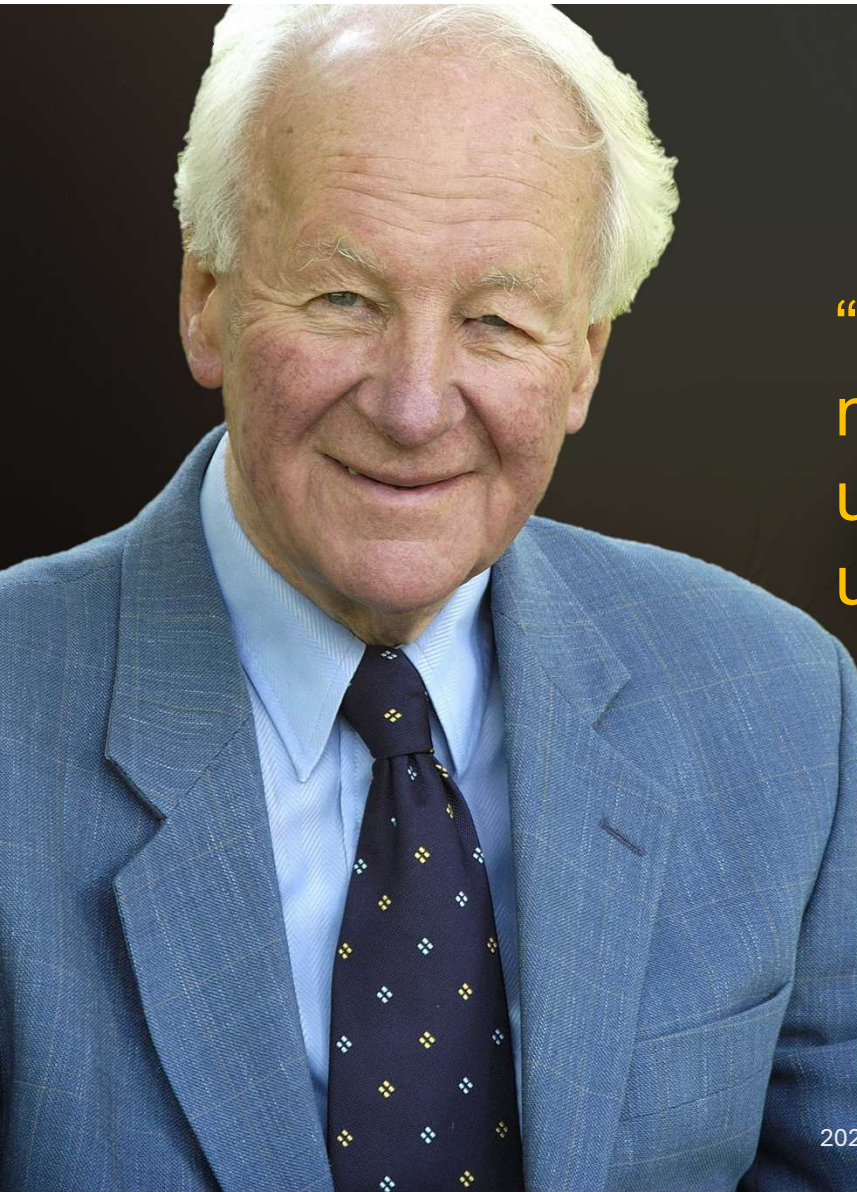
“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.” **Rom 7:18-21**

William Temple, early 20th century Anglican Priest:

“It is no good giving me a play like Hamlet or King Lear and telling me to write a play like that. Shakespeare could do it – I can’t. And it is no good showing me a life like the life of Jesus and telling me to live a life like that. Jesus could do it – I can’t. But if the genius of Shakespeare could come and live in me, then I could write plays like his. And if the Spirit could come into me, then I could live a life like His.”



3. **We are indwelt to be Christ to this world**



“In our own strength it is clearly not attainable but God has given us his Holy Spirit to dwell within us, to change us from within.”

John Stott

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee [down payment] of our inheritance until God redeems His possession, to the praise of his glory.” **Eph 1:13-14**

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ... ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” **Rom 8:9,11**

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. **For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**” **2 Cor 3:18**



4. **We are, in deed, Christ to this world**

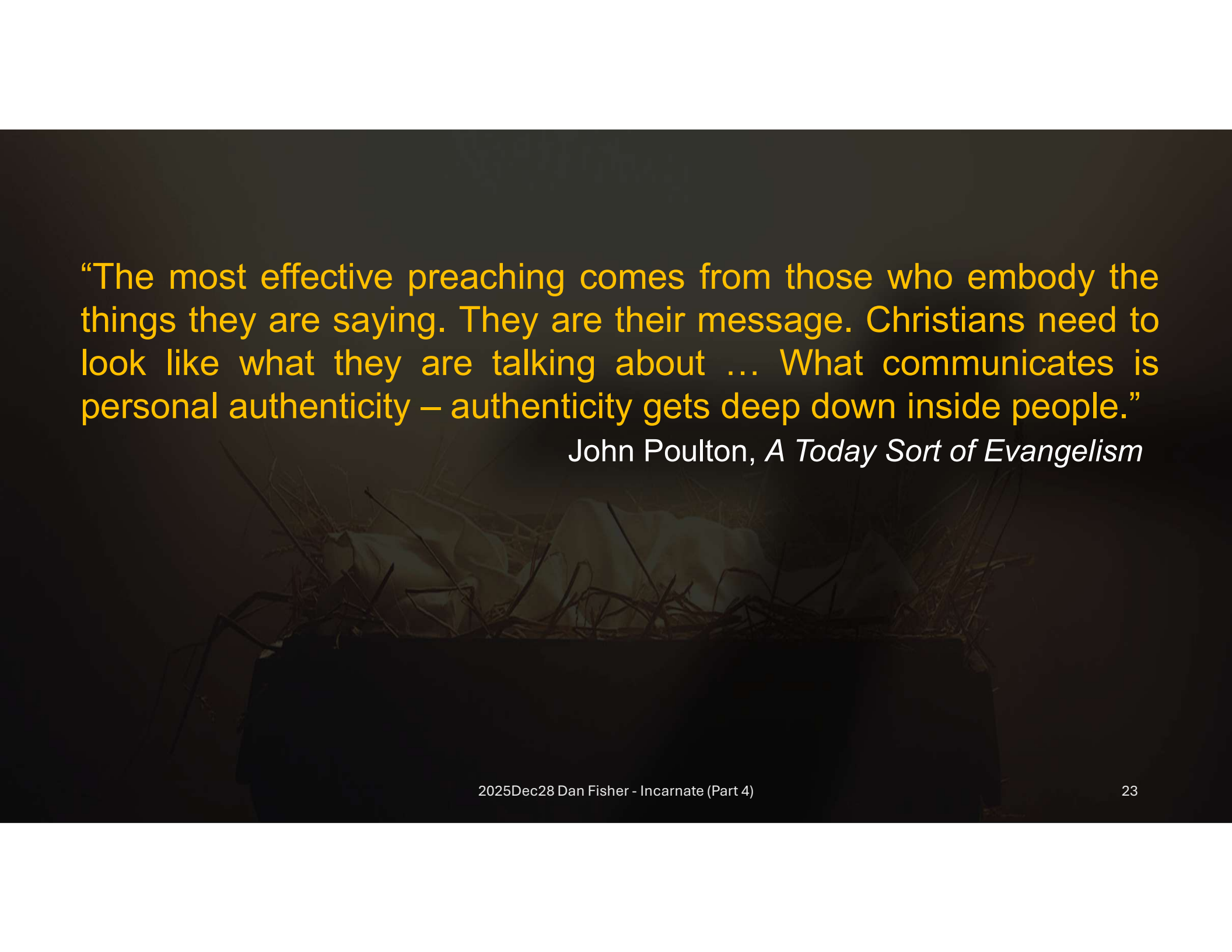
“he who says he abides in Christ ought to walk in the same way as he walked.” **1 Jn 2:6**

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” **Acts 4:13**

“But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” **Js 2:18**

“They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.” **Titus 1:16**

“Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,” **1 Jn 2:4**



“The most effective preaching comes from those who embody the things they are saying. They are their message. Christians need to look like what they are talking about ... What communicates is personal authenticity – authenticity gets deep down inside people.”

John Poulton, *A Today Sort of Evangelism*



5. **We are indeed Christ to this world**

“but go to My brethren and say to them, “I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God ... As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” **Jn 20:17,21**

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” **2 Cor 5:20**



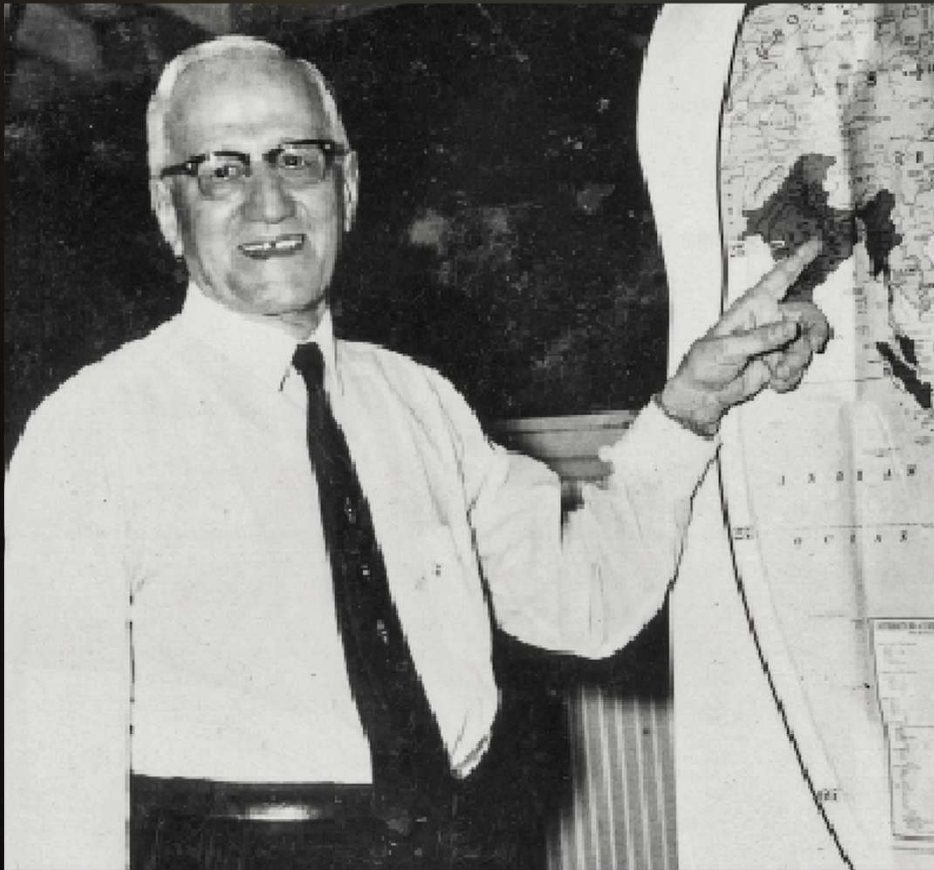
6. **We are** indispensably **Christ** **to this world**

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” **Rom 10:14-15**



Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan,
Hindu philosopher, 2nd President
of India:

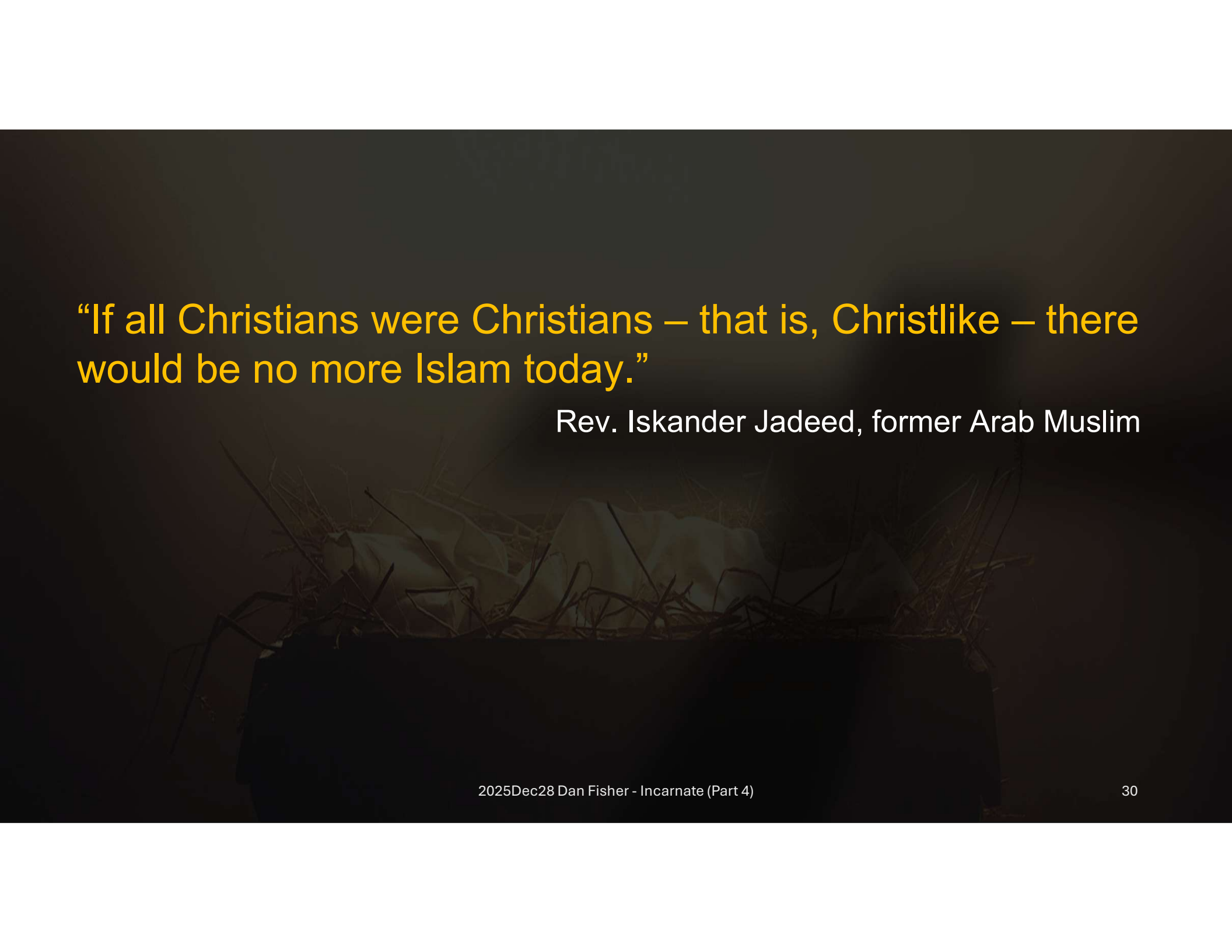
“You claim that Jesus Christ
is your Savior, but you do
not appear to be more
‘saved’ than anyone else.”



E. Stanley Jones, Methodist missionary in India was witnessing to Bara Dade, an Indian Philosopher.

Dada said, “Jesus is ideal and wonderful, but you Christians – you are not like him.”

The Christ of the Indian Road by E. Stanley Jones, p. 114



“If all Christians were Christians – that is, Christlike – there would be no more Islam today.”

Rev. Iskander Jadeed, former Arab Muslim



Can we truly say like Paul ... “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things” (Phil 4:9)?