

Oh, the Humanity

INTRODUCTION

- A. The second stanza of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," reads, in part, "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see: Hail th'incarnate Deity; Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!"
- B. Indeed, our Lord became human and dwelt among men.
 - 1. "In all things He had to be made like His brethren" (Heb. 2:17).
 - 2. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14).
- C. This evening, we want to examine Jesus' humanity.
 - 1. We will show that Jesus was completely human during his earthly ministry.
 - 2. We will examine why Jesus was completely human during his earthly ministry.

JESUS WAS A MAN WHILE ON EARTH

- A. Jesus was born of the flesh.
 - 1. Genealogies in Matt. and Lk. show Jesus' human ancestry.
 - 2. In Mt. 1:1 Jesus is called the "Son of David."
 - 3. Jesus was "born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4).
 - 4. Jesus "was born of the seed of David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3).
- B. Jesus became flesh.
 - 1. This means that he fully took on human nature.
 - 2. Jesus "was manifested in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16).
 - 3. "Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God" (1 Jn. 4:2).
 - 4. Jesus had a body and blood (Mt. 26:26-28).
 - 5. Jesus had a spirit as does all humans--"Bowing His head, He gave up His spirit" (Jn. 19:30).
- C. Jesus went through the normal growth processes.
 - 1. "The Child grew and became strong in spirit" (Lk. 2:40).
 - 2. "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Lk. 2:52).
- D. Jesus had normal physical, human needs.
 - 1. Jesus became hungry (Mt. 4:2).
 - 2. Jesus became thirsty (Jn. 4:7).
 - 3. Jesus became tired (Jn. 4:5-6).
 - 4. Jesus slept (Mt. 8:24).
- E. Jesus experienced human emotions.
 - 1. He felt joy (Jn. 15:11).
 - 2. He felt sorrow (Jn. 12:27).
 - 3. He felt anger (Mk. 3:5).
 - 4. He felt love (Mk. 10:21).
 - 5. He felt compassion (Mt. 9:36).
- F. Jesus was tempted.
 - 1. "God cannot be tempted by evil" (Jas. 1:13).
 - 2. Although God cannot be tempted, Jesus faced temptation.
 - a. Mt. 4:1-11 and Lk. 4:1-13 record three temptations of our Lord.
 - b. Jesus faced other temptations than just these three.
 - 1) After tempting Jesus, Satan left him "until an opportune time" (Lk. 4:13)- -Satan would come back and tempt Jesus when a good opportunity arose.
 - 2) When Jesus told his disciples that he would be killed, Peter replied, "Far be it from you, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" (Mt. 16:22).
 - a) Peter seems to have wanted Jesus and the apostles to devise a plan where Jesus would not need to die.

- b) Jesus replied to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan!" (Mt. 16:23)--No doubt but that Peter tempted the Lord.
- G. Jesus suffered and died as a human.
 - 1. Christ was "put to death in the flesh" (1 Pet. 3:18).
 - 2. "Christ suffered in the flesh" (1 Pet. 4:1).
- H. Jesus is frequently called a man.
 - 1. John the Baptist said, speaking of Jesus, "Alter me comes a Man who is preferred before me" (Jn. 1:30).
 - 2. Pilate brought out Jesus before the Jews and said, "Behold, the Man" (Jn. 19:5).
 - 3. "There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).
 - 4. Why would these individuals have called Jesus a man if he did not have flesh and blood as humans have?"
- I. Jesus had limited knowledge as a man.
 - 1. Jesus increased in wisdom (Lk. 2:52).
 - a. In order for growth to take place, some deficiency must exist.
 - b. Jesus did not have all the knowledge of Deity, therefore, he had to grow.
 - 2. Jesus did not know when the Second Coming would occur (Mk. 13:32).
 - 3. When the woman who had the flow of blood touched Jesus garment, Jesus replied, "Who touched My clothes?" (Mk. 13:30).
 - 4. Jesus went to a fig tree to see if there were figs on the tree (Mk. 11:13).
 - a. Some might be tempted to say that Jesus knew there were no figs on this tree, and he went to the tree just to curse it.
 - b. However, the text says he went to find figs on the tree.
- J. Indeed, the Lord Jesus lived as a man on this earth.

WHY DID JESUS BECOME A MAN?

- A. It is the fulfillment of OT prophecy.
 - 1. The OT taught that a Messiah was coming.
 - a. Moses told the Israelites, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst" (Deut. 18:15).
 - b. Micah 5:2 prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
 - 2. Jesus taught that he came to fulfill the OT.
 - a. "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill" (Mt. 5:17).
 - b. "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me" (Lk. 24:44).
- B. It is the requirement of a sympathetic high priest.
 - 1. God knows everything we endure, but before Jesus he had never experienced it first-hand.
 - 2. Jesus experienced first-hand the difficulties in our lives.
 - a. Heb. 2: 17.
 - 1) Jesus can be a merciful high priest because he knows what it's like to be tempted.
 - 2) Jesus can sympathize with us because he endured the same hurts and disappointment we have.
 - b. "There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).
- C. It is for the purpose of revelation.
 - 1. Some want us to believe that God is so far off that we can know nothing about him.
 - 2. In the Incarnation, God reveals himself to man.
 - a. The title "Immanuel" means "God with us" (Mt. 1:23).
 - b. God has spoken to us through his Son (Heb. 1:1-2).

- c. Jesus said the one who had seen him had seen the Father (Jn. 14:8-9).
 - 3. God is knowable, because Jesus came to earth and made him such.
- D. It affirms something positive about humanity.
 - 1. We often hear how evil mankind is--The Columbine school shooting underscores the fact that evil is in this world.
 - 2. The Scriptures teach that man is made in the image of God.
 - a. "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him" (Gen. 1:27).
 - b. The Hebrew of Ps. 8:5 says that man is made "a little lower than God."
 - 3. The fact that Jesus became flesh to redeem man shows that mankind is valuable.
 - a. Had Jesus not seen value in man surely he would not have died for man.
 - b. Man is valuable to God--He wants none to perish (2 Pet. 3:9).
- E. It is for our redemption
 - 1. Jesus became flesh to redeem mankind.
 - a. "Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor" (2 Cor. 8:9).
 - b. "He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb. 9:26).
 - c. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mk. 10:45).
 - 2. The idea of redemption is that Jesus came to "buy" humanity from sin.
 - 3. Athanasius said, "What God has not become, he has not redeemed. "
- F. It gives us an example of a holy life.
 - 1. Jesus came and set the supreme example of a holy life.
 - 2. Jesus left us an example that we should walk in his steps (1 Pet. 2:21).
- G. It allows God to judge the world fairly.
 - 1. God has "appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained" (Acts 17:31).
 - 2. Since God became man and dwelt among men, he is able to judge fairly.
 - 3. Illustration of the Judgment Day, Illustrations Unlimited, p. 302.