

## The Word became Flesh

### 4th Advent - The Word became Flesh

**John 1:14-18**

**Introduction story** - little girl fearfully call to mother to come.

Don't worry God is with you - "I want someone with flesh"

**1<sup>st</sup> Advent - Jesus is the Word - with God, was God**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Advent - Jesus is the life and light for all mankind**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Advent - Jesus came to own - rejected but by some welcomed**

### The Word Jesus became Flesh

#### I. God became a man

##### A. Impossible for us to fully understand

Greeks - gods were super humans with flaws

Jews - God's name could not be pronounced

Today - some with gods like themselves - worship themselves

Some believe we cannot know God - too distant

##### B. The Word was God and eternally one with God

Became - not beginning but new mode

#### II. God dwelt among us = pitched his tent with us

Tabernacle of Old Testament - God's presence and glory

Tents for Shepherds, merchants and soldiers

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

Jesus is the mediator between God and man

Jesus is the Captain of our Salvation (defeats Satan)

Not temporarily human but temporarily on earth

#### III. God was seen in His Glory

We - humanity but specifically John and the Apostles

##### A. His glory was veiled in a body of flesh but not always

His incarnations - Angels, Stars, Wise men

His Baptism - Holy Spirit as dove, God the Father spoke

His Miracles - Nature, demons and disease obeyed Him

His Transfiguration on the mount with Moses and Elijah

His Father spoke of His glory

His Resurrection - dead walked again, He appeared 40 days

His Ascension into heaven

#### B. Glory of the only begotten of God

"only begotten" more than just the son

Meant "unique" none other like Him

"dearly loved" love by God

Father- Son - not inferior or lesser - but identity

Story of Wilson's voice at funeral

He is Fully God and the fullness of God

**Colossians 2:9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.**

**Ephesians 3:19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.**

#### IV. God came to bring grace and truth

##### A. Grace - the favor of God we do not earn or deserve

More than mercy - mercy says "I forgive you"

Grace says "I adopt you as my child"

(Mother washes the face of child without scolding)

##### B. Truth - simply reality about life and the world

It is the stripping off of all illusions, shams and phoniness

Peace is only found in God, Joy is His alone

All the world offers is a poor counterfeit of truth

##### C. Jesus is grace and truth personified

It is grace upon grace - more than we can imagine

**John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.**

**Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.**

**Titus 3:7 Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.**

#### What is the truth that is revealed in the coming of Jesus?

**1. God cannot be full seen**

**2. He is revealed Himself in Creation but only partially**

**3. He gave the law to mirror our need not to redeem us**

**4. His final Word was the sending of Jesus**

**John 14:8-9 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."**

***<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”***

### **I have a debt I cannot pay**

Harry Ironside liked to tell a story about Czar Nicholas I of Russia. It seems that the czar had a good friend who asked him to provide a job for his son. This the czar did, appointing the son as paymaster for a barracks in the Russian army. However, it turned out that the son was morally weak and soon gambled away nearly all the money entrusted to him. When the word came that the auditors were going to examine his records, the young man despaired, knowing that he was certain to be found out. He calculated the amount he owed and the total came to a huge debt—far greater than he could ever pay. He determined that the night before the auditors arrived, he would take his gun and commit suicide at midnight. Before going to bed, he wrote out a full confession, listing all he had stolen, writing underneath it these words, “A great debt. Who can pay?”

Then he fell asleep, weary from his exertions. Late that night, the czar himself paid a surprise visit to the barracks as was his occasional custom. Seeing a light on, he peered into the room and found the young man asleep with the letter of confession next to him. He read the letter and instantly understood what had happened. He paused for a moment, considering what punishment to impose, then he bent over, wrote one word on the paper, and left.

Eventually the young man woke up, realizing that he had slept past midnight. Taking his gun, he prepared to kill himself when he noticed that someone had written something on the ledger. Under his words “A great debt. Who can pay?” he saw one word: “Nicholas.” He was dumbfounded and then terrified when he realized that someone knew what he had done. Checking his records, he found that the signature was genuine. Finally the thought settled in his mind that the czar knew the whole story and was willing to pay the debt himself. Resting on the words of his commander-in-chief, he fell asleep. In the morning a messenger came from the palace with the exact amount the young man owed. Only the czar could pay. And the czar did pay.

Only Jesus could pay our debt to God. That and that alone explains why “the Word became flesh and lived among us.” He pitched his tent with us for 33 years that he might pay in his own blood the debt we owed because of our sin. We stand this evening precisely where that young man did. When we look at our sins and realize our hopeless condition, we say, “A great debt. Who can pay?” Then the Lord Jesus Christ steps forward and signs his name to our ledger: “Jesus Christ.” Only Jesus could pay. And he does.