

Jesus Came

1. Introduction

- a. Last week we sang about Immanuel. It started me thinking about what that means; God with us. There is much that we cannot even conceive of in this. But what we can is something that I would like to focus on this morning.
- b. This change in Jesus' state is quite a contrast. As close as we can come to understanding this is Philippians 2: 6&7.

2. Philippians 2:6&7

a. *"Who being in the form of God..."*

- i. This verse speaks to Jesus' condition prior to the incarnation. He existed in very essence as God.
 1. Paul says in Colossians 2:9 *"For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the godhead bodily."* In other words everything that God is Christ was in the flesh.
 2. Jesus is the One that can be seen of an unseeable God. Every characteristic of God manifest itself in Jesus.
- ii. Let us think about God for a while.
 1. His transcendent glory is so great that we cannot even look at Him and live.
 - a. Moses asked to look at His glory. God obliged but only when Moses was in the cleft of the rock and covered by the rock [Christ Jesus] Exodus 33:22
 - b. Those who have seen some manifestation of God have been personally obliterated by the sight. (Isaiah 6:5; Job 42:5&6; Rev 1:17)
 2. God is self-sufficient, that is He has no needs.
 - a. He is lacking nothing as far as fellowship or sustenance is concerned. Never hungry or thirsty or sleepy or wanting anything.
 - b. He is not dependent on anything outside of Himself to keep himself alive or even to accomplish any of His desires.
 - c. On the flip side of that coin there is nothing that we can do to improve God or supply anything to Him. Sometimes people think that we are in some way necessary to God.
 3. Another thing about God, He has absolute freedom from the presence of sin and all its fruit.
 - a. Imagine having no sin at all in your presence or any of the corruption that sin causes; to not be touched or affected in any way by the recognition of sin.
 - b. Never becoming depressed or disheartened by passing events.
 - c. Or the result of sin, which is the curse, never seeing the decay of your surroundings, or of your body.
 4. Having all knowledge, never being surprised by an unexpected event or fearing the lack of ability to handle a situation.
 - a. He never wonders what will happen next, or what does tomorrow hold?
 - b. He has no anxiety or fear of any kind. The devil does not alarm Him and although He cares for His own He never frets about them.
 5. He enjoyed the unqualified adoration of the entire heavenly host. He rightly was the center of the universe. All things revolved around Him and all was in obedience to His command.

- b. *"Thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made...."*
 - i. These things and so much more Jesus willingly set aside to come here to earth.
 1. His transcendent glory was veiled while on earth so much so that there was nothing about Him that looked extraordinary. [Isaiah 53:2]
 2. All of a sudden He was desperately dependent on His own creation.
 3. Particularly He would feel the physical pains of hunger, thirst, cold, heat, want of every kind.
 - c. Imagine leaving the glory of heaven and entering the smelly dirty old barn.
 - i. He would learn and feel disease though He Himself probably never got sick.
 - ii. He would know the family tragedy of losing a loved one, his father.
 - iii. He would know teasing and torment of sinful children
 - d. He would be dependent on whatever the Father chose to reveal to Him, He gave up all knowledge of all things.
 - e. Finally He came to total ignominy. For the most part He was ignored in His life, most of His siblings hated Him.

3. 2 Corinthians 8:9

- a. *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your...."*
 - i. How much more could we think about and add this to it all, He did it out of His grace for our benefit.
 1. He saw our need and deemed it more important to meet our need than to continue in the conditions that He had.
 2. This is what love is. Whenever you hear John 3:16, don't think that it is referring to some overwhelming emotion.
 - ii. All that He put away, all that He suffered here was for our benefit.
 1. Once we are in heaven, which one of us would want to come back and live on this sin cursed planet again.
 2. He not only volunteered to do it; He knew full well that He would take all those sins on Himself and face the wrath of God on our behalf.

4. Applications

- a. Take the time to reflect on all that Jesus did for us. Let your heart be enraptured with love and gratitude to Jesus
- b. The half of what Jesus suffered I haven't mentioned. Thank Him!
- c. Understand that every good gift and every perfect Every gift you received is a token of the grace of Almighty God. But remember they all pale into insignificance compared to what He gave us.
- d. If you or I are not willing to give of ourselves, to give up our pleasures and desires for the benefit of someone that we can minister to, then we don't have the right to say we have Christian love.
- e. Maybe you have not ever personally been saved