



Scripture Nugget – God made vulnerable for our Sakes

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with Child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her Child, and she gave birth to her firstborn Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for Them in the inn (Luke 2:4-7).

The divine Incarnation, one of God’s greatest acts of charity. Humanity was immeasurably exalted and honoured when Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of God the Most High was borne incarnate as a little, ordinary human infant boy! We, as mere mortals, can only guess in awe at the amazing depth of the love that leads God the Father to make such a stupendous sacrifice. Jesus Himself tells us in His own words: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16).* God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8), and we are made out of love (cf. Ephesians 1:5), to love (cf. Matthew 22:37-39) and to be loved (cf. John 3:16, John 15:13). So many wonderful things come into fruition when Jesus Christ assumed lowly human flesh. In the Old Testament era, no one dared to call God “Father.” But this is exactly what Jesus taught us when He came in the flesh. Thus, we are adopted children of God through Jesus Christ. And as we are His children, then we are co-heirs with Christ to the inheritance of God’s Kingdom! *The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ ... (Romans 8:16-17).*

In infant Jesus, God subjects Himself to obedience to Man. Born incarnate into a human family, Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High submits Himself to the parental authority of His human guardians: His Mother Mary and foster Father Joseph. Adhering to Jewish tradition, He learned the trade of St Joseph and assisted him in his carpentry work. Thus, the Son of the Most High through Whom the whole universe was created used His Hands to make wooden furniture for a trade! When Jesus was twelve years old, He accompanied Joseph and Mary to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. When it was over and on the way back, his parents discovered He was missing. They found Him in the Temple holding an animated conversation with the teachers of the law. Upon questioned about His behaviour, Jesus replied simply He was carrying out God’s will. And carrying out His Father’s will was what He did – He went back with them and submitted to their God-given parental authority. *He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them ... (Luke 2:51).*

Conversation with Our Heavenly Father: Heavenly Father, thank You with all my heart for the priceless gift of Your only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ, You made Yourself vulnerable as You placed Christ the Child under the full authority of His human parents and later as an adult under Roman authorities which led to His Crucifixion. Only in heaven will we fully understand the depth of Your love and sacrifice on our behalf. Help us to love You more each day till we reach the stature of Jesus in loving You as You deserve. Mary, Mother of Infant Jesus, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. All glory to our Heavenly Father!