



Scripture nugget – When God is not afraid to become man

For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats take away sins. For this reason, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You prepared for Me” (Hebrews 10:4-5).

What a stupendous Incarnation when the only begotten Son of God assumed lowly human flesh. When our first parents Adam and Eve broke God’s commandment not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden (cf. Genesis 2:17), God’s providence was evident when after He cursed the tempter, the ancient serpent (Satan), He declared that its arch enemies would be a woman and her offspring (cf. Genesis 3:14-15). Thus, God the Father announced that the Ones Who will crush the head of the ancient serpent will be Mary and Jesus. To redeem sinful mankind, God has decreed that His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ assume human flesh in order to be the perfect atoning Sacrifice for the sins of mankind. *For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats take away sins. For this reason, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You prepared for Me (Hebrews 10:4-5).*

The obedience of Jesus, the second Adam made up for the disobedience of the first Adam. Christ assumed human flesh in His mission to restore God’s Kingdom lost through the sins of mankind. He is our perfect model of obedience and is the second Adam to make reparation for the disobedience of the first Adam. To assume human flesh, Christ has to humble Himself and divest Himself of all His divine glory. *Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross (cf. Philippians 2:6-8).* Before His public ministry at the age of 30, Jesus lived in obedience to Mary and Joseph in obscurity. His filial submission to Mary and Joseph glorifies God the Father more than if He had gone about performing signs and wonders before His public ministry. Scripture tells us that Jesus has to “learn obedience” by subjecting Himself to and overcoming temptations on the human level. *Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered; and when He was made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9).* To intercede effectively for sinners, Christ on the human level has to overcome temptations confronting sinners, becoming perfect in the flesh. In doing so, Christ, the Author of All Graces became a perfect, atoning Sacrifice for all repentant sinners.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, we would never be able to fully appreciate what a great thing You did for us in assuming human flesh because to do so, we would have to become divine like You. What a stupendous act of love and sacrifice Your Incarnation is, which causes the whole universe to exult and rejoice beyond all expectation, and yet it was done quietly and only witnessed by a few simple souls who love God: the simple shepherds and the three wise men from the East. You could have chosen to be born into royalty and a gilded life but You choose to identify with the poor, and to be born in a lowly stable! May all hearts be purified and enlightened to welcome You with joy and to provide You with a warm manger of our hearts this Christmas. Mary, Mother of Baby Jesus, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.