



Scripture Nugget – The Divine Incarnation, the Amazing Act of God

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High....” (Luke 1:30-32).

The Incarnation of Christ, the Word Made Flesh is a great, selfless act of God unparalleled in the whole universe except for the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. We, mere mortals with human intellect will never fully grasp the depth of the sacrifice involved when Jesus stepped down from His heavenly throne to assume human flesh. Jesus has to empty Himself of the glory, majesty and adoration due to Him as the only begotten Son of the Most High. The Incarnation, the wonder amongst wonders, is driven only by God’s untold love for humanity. It is impossible for the blood of animal sacrifices to take away sins, and God has no desire for these. *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 10:5).*

In taking lowly human flesh, Jesus makes a great identification with us, poor sinners. He is not ashamed to be identified with us. In referring to Himself, Jesus uses the title “Son of Man” more frequently than any other title. Through being born incarnate into a family with humble means with His birth taking place in a lowly stable, Jesus makes a special identification with the poor. Jesus teaches us: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:3).* How many human hearts are held hostage to the allurements of earthly wealth, power and ambition to the detriment of their souls? The poor and the meek of heart are blessed because it is easier for them to put their dependence and reliance on God and to remain humble to walk steadfastly on the true path.

During His time on earth, Jesus gives us great lessons on obedience and allegiance to God. Scripture tells us Jesus “learnt” obedience through the sufferings of His human body (cf. Hebrew 5:8). Through the sufferings of His human body, Jesus demonstrated obedience to the Heavenly Father whilst He is in the flesh in atonement for our disobedience, and to prove Himself a perfect sacrifice for our sins. *For we do not have a high priest Who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).* Thus, Jesus understands perfectly our every weakness and difficulty as He, Himself has been tested in every way during His time on earth.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are truly God and truly Man. You understand perfectly all my human weaknesses which You make Your own when You assumed human flesh. You experience hunger, pain, desertion, persecution, total deprivation and death on earth. Yet You remain obedient to our Heavenly Father at every moment. Your victory is mine as I now have all the graces needed to overcome all obstacles to my salvation. Let me never forget what You have done for me, and may my heart and all that breath give unceasing praise and thanksgiving to You! Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.