



Scripture nugget - At His Name all knees must bend (cf. Philippians 2:10)

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, 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. Because of this, God greatly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Philippians 2:5-10).

The Incarnation is a great act of humbling by Christ, atoning for human pride and disobedience. For Christ to take on lowly human nature is to submit to emptying Himself of His divine glory and majesty, stepping down from His throne in heaven and to be subjected to the constraints of the human nature: from the loftiness of God to the lowness of man, while still in essence divine! Thus, the act of being borne incarnate into a human family is beyond human comprehension and an untold, tremendous selfless sacrifice of Christ, the only begotten Son of Almighty God. His burning love for the Heavenly Father's will provides the powerful motivation for such a profound and total self-giving. Jesus atoned for our disobedience by His perfect fulfillment of the Heavenly Father's will. He atoned for our pride and self-love by living a simple life of love and sacrifice while on earth. Though everything belongs to Him and was created through Him and for Him, Jesus owned nothing when He walked on earth as a man. *Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest His head" (Matthew 8:20).* His public life on earth was totally dedicated to the teaching, healing and salvation of sinners. He was constantly under the threat of the Jewish religious leaders who planned to kill Him out of jealousy, and besieged by crowds who followed Him. At times, He did not even have the time to eat, leading His relatives to think that He was mad! Such was His dedication to souls.

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). Christ willingly endured a shameful, painful death on the Cross to give us eternal life. From the time of His Incarnation to His death on the Cross, Jesus was oftentimes rejected especially by the Jewish religious leaders. Christ endured human rejection in order to gain for us acceptance by the Heavenly Father. He was born into a poor family, worked with His hands as a carpenter before His public ministry and depended on the charity of others to fulfill His needs in His public ministry. On the Cross, He was totally stripped of human dignity and deprived even of the allegiance of most of His apostles. *For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake He became poor although He was rich, so that by His poverty you might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, because of what You have done for me, I can stand in Your righteousness and claim my glorious eternal inheritance as a child of God and co-heir to His Kingdom! You heal me through Your own bruises, pain, suffering and precious Blood (cf. Isaiah 53:5). God, the Heavenly Father publicly acclaimed You as His dearly beloved Son with Whom He is well pleased (cf. Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5). I join my Heavenly Father in declaring the greatness of my Lord and Saviour Who offered His life for me. By Your Passion, teach and empower me to walk in Your ways! Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.