

JESUS CHRIST

GOD. MAN. SAVIOUR.

SERMON NOTES: THE MISUNDERSTOOD SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' HUMANITY (6/3/16)

SCRIPTURE

John 1, in particular v1-4,14,18

In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men.

The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

No one has ever seen God. The One and Only Son—the One who is at the Father's side—He has revealed him.

Genesis 3:1-5

Romans 5:12

1 Corinthians 15:22

Matthew 4:1-11

Romans 5:15-17 (MSG)

Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man's sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God's gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There's no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?"

QUOTES

"As I look back on the three temptations, I see that Satan proposed an enticing improvement. He tempted Jesus toward the good parts of being human without the bad: to savour the taste of bread without being subject to the fixed rules of hunger and of agriculture, to confront risk with no real danger, to enjoy fame and power without the prospect of painful rejection—in short, to wear a crown but not a cross. (The temptation that Jesus resisted, many of us, his followers, still long for)."

Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

KEY POINTS

- + As NT Wright suggests, Western Christians misunderstand the significance of the humanity of Christ, and often mistakenly think that Jesus is merely human in appearance, or he is not entirely human, or that his humanity was just a means to an end.
- + Throughout the Old Testament we see the themes established that: humanity needs forgiveness of sins against a Holy God; we need deliverance from our condition; and God's pursuit is restoration of the image and likeness of God in his creation.
- + Jesus' temptation in the wilderness is an echo of man's temptation in the garden: to become like God; that there is goodness outside of what God has ordained.
- + Jesus' higher goal was to reverse the curse by being the perfect human and restore all mankind back to himself, reconnecting us to God.
- + Jesus bore the suffering we deserve (separation from God) completely as a human being.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + Is Jesus' humanity something you have considered as significant/impacting to your faith and relationship with God? Has it been something you've misunderstood? Has Lent revealed anything new to you about Jesus being human?
- + Take some time to reflect and write down a sentence or two that personally articulates the significance of Jesus' humanity.
- + How do you see the original temptations (to be like God, and that there is goodness outside of what God has ordained) playing out in your life today? How does Jesus' life and work on the cross change this for you?

- + **What stuck out to you from the teaching?** Did God remind you of something, or reveal something new? Did the Spirit minister to you?
- + **Were any questions raised for you?** Did you get stuck on any scriptures or points? Anything you need clarity on?
- + **Where do we see Jesus Christ in this teaching?** Jesus is at the centre of everything in the Scriptures. It follows that he is at the centre of everything we understand about church, faith and the Kingdom. What in the teaching has helped you see more of Jesus and the cross, or moved you to love him more?
- + **How can you personally apply this teaching?** Identify and commit to something you sense the Spirit is leading you to do in obedient response. Make it actionable and personal. What is in place to help you stay accountable to this?
- + **What/with whom can you share from here?** Who in your life needs to know the truth you've discovered? How can you share it with them?