

Jesus the God-Man John 1:1,2,14, Philippians 2:5-8, Matthew 1:22-23  
(subtitle: True Man Yet Very God)

Note: Today's sermon well concurs with UMH 216, verse 3, "True man yet very God from sin and death now save us and share our every load."

### **John 1:1,2, 14 New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. ... <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

### **Philippians 2:5-8**

*Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

### **Matthew 1:22-23**

*<sup>22</sup> Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."*

### **Introduction**

Christmas is a story of Jesus 'Immanuel.' Last week we learned that Jesus is our 'Immanuel'---'with us God.' Jesus is with us always to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). He dwells in us. He walks with us. He provides and protects us. He is faithful to us forever.

Christmas is also a story of Jesus the 'God-Man--God became man.' This morning we are going to think about His incarnation: (Latin: *in-carni*) *Into flesh*. God becoming one of us: Jesus was the God who emptied Himself and took human form. He was the God who was born in a manger. He was the God who pitched His tent

among us and dwelt as one of us for thirty-three years. That God was Jesus. I call Him “Jesus the God-Man” who was perfectly divine and perfectly human.

God becoming human--- this mystery is called ‘incarnation’ in theology. By the way, where does this idea of ‘incarnation’ come from? No place but from God’s Word. There are many references in the Scriptures, but here are two examples. John 1:1, 2, 14 say, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. ... <sup>14</sup> And **the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.***” ---Here, ‘**the Word that became flesh**’ was Christ in a person named Jesus.

Listen more.

“Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He **existed in the form of God**, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but **emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8).

## Content

Why incarnation, though? It’s a God thing. It is a mystery of God. Only the LORD understands it. No humans will ever fully understand it. For us to catch the glimpse of it, however, the Scriptures reveal three reasons why God came into a person named Jesus and became human.

First, God became flesh to **have the first-hand experience as human**: God’s salvation plan for humanity was as follows: God the Son (the Logos, the Word) came down to humanity as one of them so that He could be like them in every aspect: to experience everything that humans do, to feel in every way we feel, to be tempted in every way we are, to suffer as we do, to understand what it’s exactly like being human so that He might save humanity from their sins, to deliver them from the fear of sin and death, and to proclaim God’s salvation message in the ways that humans would understand. E.g., Imagine you try to communicate with ants on the ground. Which one is a more efficient way? Either you stand high and mighty up here and speak a human language to the ants down below, or you become one of them and communicate in their language?

Such salvation plan of God began with a *perfectly human birth* and ended with a *perfectly human death* and everything in between. Nothing more, nothing less. After conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit (so that He may be sinless), Jesus, the God-Man was born like any other baby: from mother's womb into the world. He went through the same human growth chart. He was raised like any other child in the world. He grew up as an ordinary child obeying His earthly parents. He did chores for the family; He helped His mom to set up tables and took the garbage out. He even baby sat His younger siblings. When He was grown up, He had to work hard with His hands for daily bread. He walked many miles. He got tired. He slept. He got hungry. He got thirsty. He also went through the same emotions as we all go through: He laughed. He wept. He got angry. He was frustrated. He was thoroughly one of us. Just like you and me. No one would deny that He was perfectly human.

Next, Jesus the God-Man underwent **the same struggles and temptations** as we do. In His mind He understood human depravity. In His head He knew that we humans are susceptible to temptations. However, God wanted Him to gain the first-hand experience in human struggles and sufferings. Otherwise, Jesus would not be able to fully understand what it's like being a human. E.g. A college instructor with a master's degree was grading the students' papers. She wondered why not every student got an A on tests all the time, when '*everything they should know is in the textbook.*' Right? She even called some students with C's or D's '*lazy*' or '*not study hard enough.*' Such perception totally changed when she herself became a student in a Ph.D. program. No matter how hard she studied, she didn't get all A's. Becoming a student by herself helped her to realize what it is like being a student. It's not easy to get A's all the time, even though '*everything is in the textbook.*'

In order to truly understand human suffering and pain, Jesus the God-Man had to undergo Himself physical pains, emotional anguish, and even the fear of death. In order to understand temptations and trials, He too was tested and tempted in every possible way in the same way as we are, if not more: E.g., Remember? Jesus was tempted by the tempter in the wilderness to turn the stones into bread, to put God to the test, and to worship the devil. He was also rejected by His own family, by His countrymen, and by the authorities: they called Him *insane*. A *devil's agent working for the devil*. He was mocked. He was despised. He was whipped. He was spat on. He even tasted death—the ultimate line that separates us the mortal from God the immortal. He was thoroughly human without sin.

Finally, Jesus the God-Man **helps us in times of need**: Being perfected through suffering, Jesus the God-Man knows what is like to be tempted. Knowing exactly what we go through, Jesus understands us, sympathizes with us, and offers us a timely help. Hebrews 2:18 says, *“Because He Himself was tested by what He suffered, He can help those who are being tested.”*

*“<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot **sympathize with our weaknesses**, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need”* (Hebrews 4:15-16). He is our merciful High Priest. He understands that life is hard. He empathizes with us in our struggles and frustrations. He understands the efforts we are making. Out of such perfect understanding of human life, He offers His help to those who are willing to take it.

## **Conclusion**

The bottom-line: Jesus is 100% divine, yet He is also 100% human. He understands what we are made of and what we are going through. Therefore, we can go to Him in times of need. In prayers---we have an unlimited and forever guaranteed access to God’s throne room through Jesus. This Christmas and beyond, may God help us to experience Jesus the God-Man. Let us pray.