

Sermon Notes

REFLECTIONS

7-11-10

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And the Word
became flesh
and dwelt
among us,
(John 1:14 NKJ)

Sea of Galilee



Reflections

Jesus, the Word of God, came in the humility of human flesh as He left the glory of Heaven to become as His created ones. John captures the reality of His sacrifice when he describes who Jesus really is: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (John 1:1-5 NKJ)*

He further explains: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NKJ)* John has provided the complete picture of God coming into His creation with the purpose of perfecting, in flesh, the fulfillment of righteousness by becoming the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John describes Jesus, the Son of God, as being God, yet in His humanness, He became subject to the Father's will and purposes and was obedient even to death on the cross.

In His obedience He paid the price for man's sin by taking upon Himself the sin of the world, by facing the rejection of the Father, by giving up His life and by taking it back up again in the resurrection. As a result, salvation from the curse of sin was made available to all who believe in Him. By His mercy and grace we can now rejoice in the hope of eternal life in Him. The Bible explains: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJ) Paul further explains in the second letter to the Corinthians that we can now walk in authority over the sin that has often enslaved us because, in Christ, we are made new. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2Corinthians 5:17 NKJ)*

Given the thorough presentation of the Gospel of Christ in the Word, we have to wonder why the Church has not seen throngs come to know Jesus as their Savior and to become obedient to His Word. The disciples and followers of Jesus in

Jerusalem saw thousands come to repentance in just the first few days of their ministry. Why not at this time in history also? What is different now that should hold us back? The reality is that there are some works that are seeing many come to faith in Christ, and yet there are so many that seem not to be reaching those around them. Remember that on that first day of the Holy Spirit's filling of the believers, there were men from all over Israel who were hearing the Gospel of Jesus from folks who had been transformed by the Spirit's indwelling presence to share, in power, the Gospel.

Perhaps that is the problem for us today. Those around us may not see that transforming power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. Maybe we have become merely religious and not Spirit-filled believers who carry the Gospel in our lives as well as in our words. Why should others be attracted to our less than stellar spiritual lives? Paul reminds those in the church at Rome that the message must have a voice. *For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? (Romans 10:13-15 NKJ)* Paul is not talking about just those who are called and trained to be behind the pulpit, rather he is talking about those who would be heralds of the Gospel to go out and publicly proclaim it to others.

It would seem then that we must examine ourselves and look carefully at our relationship with Jesus. Have we allowed Him to fill us with His Spirit? Is our life one that has been transformed by His presence in our daily walk? What are the fruits of our labors? Could someone recognize our commitment to Jesus by the way in which we live? Are we given to His Word and to His call to share His Gospel? Wow! When we take a good look at our lives it is quite challenging because we all tend to want the Lord to call on someone else to share the Gospel. Why can't the Pastor and Elders do that for us? It's just not my gift! Let's look beyond the excuses that may come to mind and turn to the Word for guidance. Who is called on to do the ministry? *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ... (Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJ)* Perhaps it's all of us!

Pastor Doug