

CHRISTMAS EVE 12-24-21 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

When we think of the incarnation story we should immediately think of the ultimate act of humility.

The eternal son of God.. who was co-equal co-eternal with the father left his throne in heaven and humbled himself and became a man. He veiled himself of his glory..

The reason there is death, sickness, heartache, and all the rest is because of pride. Pride is called the original sin of condemnation .. the condemnation of the devil.

My wife and I recently were watching a documentary about the emperors of Rome. It seemed they all had the same problem. They start out good but then their sovereign power goes to their head and they become proud and abusive.

This has been the curse of leadership down through the centuries.

This is why Paul warns Timothy about appointing Bishops. He says,

A Bishop should not be a new convert. But he needs to be a person who has been proven.

I Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

David learned humility through the things he suffered under Saul's leadership. Through the mistakes of Saul, David learned to be careful.

Remember Saul Reigned for 40 years, and David was only 30 when he ascended to the throne. That means that Saul was King before David was born by at least 10 years. He learned humility by being the youngest son and given the job of being a shepherd, then in his teen years he learned submission by being abused under the leadership of Saul. He learned obedience through the things he suffered.

The Incarnation story was a perfect example of God establishing the setting for our Lord's future ministry of suffering and humility.

I. IN HIS BIRTH HE WAS HUMBLD BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS NATIVITY..

Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

II. IN HIS CHILDHOOD HE WAS HUMBLLED THROUGH HIS MORTAL PARENTS LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHO HE WAS ..

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Luke 2:50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

Luke 2:51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

III. IN HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY HE WAS HUMBLLED BY HIS REJECTION OF HIS FELLOW CITIZENS..

Luke 4:24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

Luke 4:28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

Luke 4:29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

IV. IN HIS DEATH HE WAS HUMBLLED BY THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIM..

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

V. AFTER HE PROVED HIS WORTHINESS NOW HE IS EXALTED...

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VI. WHEN WE PARTAKE OF COMMUNION WE ARE SAYING WE ARE UNITED WITH HIM..

We associate with his sufferings..

We associate with his rejections..

We associate in his humility..

We associate in his resurrection .. this is what we wait for..

The glory that will be revealed..

COMMUNION MESSAGE..

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Hebrews 10:6 In burnt offerings and [sacrifices] for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

Hebrews 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Hebrews 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and [offering] for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure [therein]; which are offered by the law;

Hebrews 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all].

Tonight we celebrate the Lord's table or Communion because this ordinance was ordained of our Lord to picture the spiritual significance of his mission..

The Bread represents his Body.. which was sacrificed for us..

When we receive him into our hearts the spirit that comes into our hearts is His spirit so that which is in us.. His spirit allows us to enter into his death .. and we become one body.. many members but one body...

We are engrafted into his body.. just like you can take a limb from one tree and engraft it into another tree so we who were alienated from God have been engrafted into his body.. Now each of us .. become one with him in spirit ..

One loaf.. the trunk of the tree ... many members.. the limbs..

The Cup represents the blood of Christ... which was poured out for us all..

We have all become partakers of that cup.. thus symbolized by the drinking of the cup...

As long as the Blood flows between our various limbs and organs those limbs live.. if the blood is cut off.. that limb will die..

Now we are going to partake of the Lord's supper and what greater way to remember our Lord and Saviour first advent ... on this Holiday we call Christmas. He came into the world to redeem us and this ordinance pictures that truth. This is the greatest gift ever given to men.

COMMUNION

Paul gave the teaching concerning this ordinance in I Corinthians Chapter 11

I Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the [same] night in which he was betrayed took bread:

I Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake [it], and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also [he took] the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink [it], in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

I Corinthians 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink [this] cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

I Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of [that] bread, and drink of [that] cup.

I Corinthians 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

I Corinthians 11:30 For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

I Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

I Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

I Corinthians 11:33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

I Corinthians 11:34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

CONSIDER WHAT THE BIBLE EXHORTS US TO DO..

I Corinthians 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of [that] bread, and drink of [that] cup.

Examine yourself.. not my job to examine you.. examine yourself.. but be honest

Saved... Walking in Obedience to his commandments..

Not walking in willful rebellion

God will chasten you if you desecrate this ordinance.. so as the elements are passed if you are not sure you should partake, just let the elements pass on to the next person..

I Corinthians 11:30 For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

I Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

I Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

LET US CELEBRATE THIS ORDINANCE TOGETHER ON THIS HOLIDAY WHEN WE
REMEMBER BACK TO THE BIRTH OUR LORD... WHEN HE TOOK ON FLESH..
CAME AND WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN FOR US...