

## The Birth of God: How...and Why?

Advent Midweek #1 – 12/01/21 – Mt. Calvary Luth.

Text: Luke 1:26-38 Pastor Keith Besel

v. 35 [The angel Gabriel responded to Mary,] **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.”**

### **Introduction**

- ⊗ Some of the most difficult questions I have ever received have come from those whom adults don't always think are capable of thinking at a deeper level.
  - ➔ In the fact, the idea for the midweek Advent sermon series this year was sparked by a question asked by a confirmation class student as the class was studying the life of Jesus. The young lady asked, “When Jesus was our age, did He know that He was God?”
  - ➔ That's a hard question. Have any of you ever thought about that before? It's not something I had considered before I heard the question.
- ⊗ And you know, there are a lot of hard questions that hardly anybody's asking these days; many more questions than we will have the time to ask in this series. But for some of the questions there are very important Advent answers. After all, isn't that what Advent is all about? – preparing to celebrate that time “When Heaven Met Earth”; when God first took on human flesh in the person of Jesus.
  - ➔ The word “Advent” means “coming”. And most of us think of Jesus' first advent occurring at Christmas, in the town of Bethlehem. But you know, Jesus first took on human flesh some nine months before that time when, He was conceived within the womb of the Virgin Mary.
  - ➔ So tonight we think of, and prepare for that ultimate Advent when the promised Christ came as the fullness of the almighty God in human flesh!
- ⊗ Just try to wrap your mind around all of what that entails and you will begin to get at the idea for our midweek series this year – hard questions that hardly anybody is asking. Questions that have Advent answers – those are the ones we're going to address over the next three weeks.
  - ➔ So the first question is this: How Can God Take on Human Flesh...and Why would He do so?

### **I. God – beyond our ability to comprehend.**

- ⊗ Imagine that you are a missionary in a remote part of New Guinea trying to share your faith with people who have never heard one word about the true God. For that matter, you don't have to go half way around the world. So just imagine that you're talking over the fence with your neighbor who knows absolutely nothing about the Christian faith. Those kind of people are becoming far more common today.
  - ➔ How would you describe God? You know, *the* God whom we trust with our earthly lives and our eternal destinies; *the* God whom we believe, teach, and confess; the One whom we worship and serve, and with whom we have daily conversations through prayer.
- ⊗ This God is awesome, glorious, and eternal. But how in the world do you describe something which has no beginning and no ending? God's first act of creation was to create time. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning...”. So it is within the realm of time that He created us. But for us to

try and understand one who is outside of time when existence within time is all that we know is impossible for us to do.

→ And then there is the might and majesty of almighty God. Power is defined by the amount of power and strength and ability of the one that holds that power. But to be “almighty” means that God is not constrained to any amount or level of power and ability. His might is infinitely beyond our ability to comprehend, which is a good thing...until someone tries to define or limit what God can or can't do.

→ I don't know about you, but I am actually comforted and gladdened by the fact that I can't fit my God into some little box of my own understanding; that there's a whole truckload of stuff I'd like to know about God but never can know this side of eternity.

- ✘ So, while we have a lot of words we use to describe God, we must face the fact that we can never fully explain Him. Instead we must just marvel that this God is the Creator of all that exists – of light out of darkness, of the seas and stars and mountains and plains, of animals and plants and birds and fish, of man and woman. And all of it He created out of nothing, no less! Everything that we see and touch and smell and hear that is good God made 100% from scratch. Amazing!

## II. By Mystery & Miracle God Took on Human Flesh

- ✘ That's the context of today's hard question that hardly anybody is asking: How can God – this God who is infinitely beyond all description or explanation or comprehension – how can He take on the limits and constraints of existing in human flesh. And why would He ever do it?

→ First the how: the apostle John, using the same words to begin his Gospel as Moses did at the beginning of Genesis, wrote it this way: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” ...and the Word created life and light and the totality of creation: “and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, ...full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:1, 14).

- ✘ How? Those of us who know the story well must admit that knowing the story doesn't make it any less of a mystery or miracle. It is the story of a young girl named Mary, chosen to be the human mother of this holy God.

→ Different church bodies have tried to make human sense out of that which no human being can ever fully understand. The Mormon's pervert the sanctity of God the Father by saying that He somehow came to earth and had physical sex with Mary, even though God the Father has no physical body. The Jehovah's Witnesses say that Jesus' physical life began in heaven. But He then willingly allowed Himself to be transferred, by God, from heaven to the womb of the virgin, Mary, which then removes the possibility of Jesus having any human nature since they believe Mary is just an earthly vessel for God. Those and any other attempts at making things fit into the human mind actually only reveal the weakness of their theology.

- ✘ The best thing for us to do is to just own up to the fact that our ability to understand everything about God and His power will always come up short. And so, what's best is to simply let God speak for Himself in the pages of His Holy Word.

→ Verse 35 tells us that Jesus was conceived within Mary by “the power of the Most High” working through the Holy Spirit. That's how God took on human flesh. Nine months later, in a stable in Bethlehem, quietly and with a faithful man named Joseph looking on, God was then born in the human fashion, as a human baby boy, whose name was Jesus.

→ So how was God born into one person that is 100% God and 100% man? by the mystery and miracle of God Himself!

### **III. Why? Because of His Love for Us.**

✘ As to the question of why God was born in human flesh, let's begin with the name that Gabriel told Mary she was to give to her new baby. The name "Jesus" is a Hebrew word that means "Yahweh Saves". It is pronounced "Yeshua" and it is a form of the name Joshua that means "Savior".

→ The first man and woman, made in God's image, fell from holiness but not from grace. The same is true of every created human being since. Ever since that fall into sin the world would never be the same as it was when God first created it. Sin is that powerful and deadly. It wreaks havoc on all of mankind.

✘ Because death was now required of all people, the only way for God to fulfill His original desire of having an eternal relationship with us is to send the world a Savior.

→ But the qualifications were steep: the Savior had to be someone who was still perfect and without sin. Yet the Savior also had to be someone who would be able to endure the consequences of sin in the same kind of human flesh and blood that committed the sin. He had to experience the pain and suffering and death that sin required but also be able to snuff out its power through a resurrection back to new life in victory over death.

✘ So, why did God take on human flesh? Because He loves us all enough to say, "I will never give up on them. I'll never leave them. I, the Father, will send them My only Son to be born among them; to live among them; to save them from the curse of their sins."

→ So it was, on that night that we call Christmas, "When Heaven Met Earth" in the birth of the only one born Son of God and Son of Man; born as the Savior of the World. Amen.