

WHAT CHILD IS THIS WEEK 2 “MAN”

– PATRICK WALTON / 12.10.2017

Matthew 1:1-17 | Luke 2:1-7,41-50

INTRODUCTION—*Ruston Way, losing Anna...for a few minutes*

THE INCARNATION NORMALIZES/HUMBLES HUMANITY

God, possessing all power, could have made whatever kind of entrance He wanted, but instead, chose to come near, in the normal processes of human life. He was born like all of us. This is humbling, as it forces us to look at a God who's not far off, but near.

“The incarnation means that, for whatever reason God chose to let us fall into a condition of being limited, to suffer, and be subject to sorrows and death—He had the honesty and the courage to take His own medicine...He has Himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair and death... He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile.” -Dorothy Sayers (British Essayist)

In the ancient world, your genealogy could potentially be your ticket into a great life depending on who your family was. Genealogies were edited for space and often left out shady folks and included the best people.

Matthew opens his Gospel with a shocking presentation of Jesus' family tree (**Matthew 1:1-17**);

Abraham—Twice said his wife was his sister—slept with his maid Jacob—Cheated his father, stole from his brother, then ripped off his future wife's family Tamar—Tricked her father-in-law into sleeping with her by acting as a roadside prostitute to get back at her husband Judah Rahab—A Canaanite prostitute David—Slept with Bathsheba, got her pregnant, then had Uriah (his mighty man) killed

Jesus' genealogy tells us that He didn't come ONLY for the insider, the wealthy, the educated or the elite—He came for all of us:

1st Corinthians 6:9-11 *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

In Christ there's only, us—in heaven, to the angels, we are them, those people, they

HOW HUMAN WAS JESUS?

All of our decorations, trees, lights, presents nicely wrapped, eggnog, holiday parties and scented candles are very different than the Christmas Jesus experienced

Poor, teenage-engaged parents, fleeing as refugees, traveling on a donkey, sold out hotels, barnyard animals, feeding trough for a crib

An early Church Father, Augustine rightly said, "Christ added to what He was not, but He didn't lose what He was."

From the Bible, we learn just how human Jesus was:

He was born of a woman	He had a normal body of flesh and bone	Grew up as a boy	He had a family
He obeyed His parents	He worshipped God	He prayed and fasted	He worked
He got hungry and thirsty	He asked for information	He was astonished	He was happy
He had compassion	He had male and female friends	He loved deeply	He gave encouraging compliments
He loved children	He had a brother	He had a human name	He grew physically, spiritually and mentally
He showed frustration	He celebrated holidays	He went to parties	He loved His mom
He suffered	He cried	He was forsaken	He died

In life Jesus didn't cease to be God, and in death He didn't cease to be man (451);

John 20:24-28 "Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, 'we have seen the Lord.'" So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

1st Corinthians 15:3-8 "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."

Revelation 5:6 "And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain..."

HUMANITY AND DIVINITY

Your humanity doesn't repel His divinity—He's attracted to it. Christians often lose sight of their humanity after receiving Jesus' divinity.

Others have been so blinded by their humanity that they can't see, or fathom Jesus' divinity.
