

Series: John

Title: Holy Ground (The Word Became Flesh)

Text: John 1:14-18

Today, we walk on Holy Ground. Our topic: THE WORD BECAME FLESH. Here we learn how ~~God~~^{God} revealed himself to us. Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John chapter 1. The Gospel of John chapter 1 beginning with vs. 14. Please stand for the reading of God's Word.

(Read John 1:14-18) (Prayer)

(3B) Beginning with vs. 14, I want you to see how ~~Jesus~~^{God} reveals Himself to us. And this is so amazing when you think about it. The God who made us revealed himself to us. WOW!!!! It sort of gives you goose bumps.

People often made fun of this portion of scripture by saying that if there were a God, He certainly wouldn't become man. If God is everywhere at once, how could He become a man called Jesus? Now, I would like to share one thought about that idea. I believe it was absolutely necessary for God to reveal himself as a man. That there was no other way that He could communicate on the same level in order to demonstrate His forgiveness and love.

For example: if I had some ants crawling around on this pulpit; and I decided that I wanted to communicate with them, how would I do it? Well, I guess I could write them a letter and say: "Dear Ants, please get off my pulpit before I wipe you out." And do you know what would happen? NO RESPONSE! They would just crawl around on this pulpit. I could clap my hands, I could sing (heaven forbid). But, still no response. I could ring bells. Jump up and down. NO RESPONSE. The best way to communicate with those ants is to become one. RIGHT? RIGHT!

Listen, the God who made us in order to reveal himself to us, the only way that He could actually reveal himself to those He created was to become man. And that is what we are considering, here, in verses 14 through 18. How God has revealed himself to ~~man~~^{us}. How did He do it? ~~ways~~^{ways}....

(1D) Number one, He revealed himself in the incarnation.

^{Vs 14} The word "incarnation" simple means "to be made flesh." Vs 14 says.. "THE WORD (JESUS) BECAME FLESH." It does not use the word "born". It doesn't say that Jesus was born. It says that He became flesh. ^{John} puts it that way because Jesus existed previous to his birth on earth. If Jesus started to exist at the time He was a baby in Bethlehem, John would have chosen the normal word for being "born." He would have used the ^{Greek} word "tek-onon" meaning "little born one." But, he did not do that because Jesus is the eternal God. The eternal God who became flesh in order to show himself to man....(AMEN)

You say, "Pastor, that is hard to understand." You had better believe that is hard to understand. Paul wrote in I Tim 3:16 "great is the mystery of godliness." God was manifested in the flesh. That is true. But it is hard to understand.

^{now,} To emphasize this further..Vs 14 says.."He dwelt among us, ^{and} we beheld his glory." The word "dwelt" means "to pitch a tent." And right away John's Jewish hearers would have known exactly what he was referring to. Because, you see, the glory of God dwelt ^{where?} in a Tabernacle or the Temple.

So, according to this 14th verse the glory of God which was manifested in several ways in the O.T.....pillars of clouds by day.....pillar of fire by night.....When Moses was upon the mountain, it says he was covered by clouds of glory. And when Jesus comes back to this earth, it says He will come in clouds of great glory.

You see, God did manifest himself in ways like that. But, think about it? That is not a very detailed explanation of who ~~God~~^{God} is? It is not a very complete revelation. That is why God became man, The glory of God becomes complete in Jesus Christ.

Hebrew 1:2 says that God in these last days has spoken unto us by means of His son, Jesus. In Colossians 2:9 we read: "all the fullness of God dwells in Jesus."

Then John ^{goes on to} says "we beheld his glory." What does that mean? The word "beheld" is the word for "theater" in Greek. So, it means "gazing at". They were watching it intensely. Like you would watch a play.

O.K., when did ^{John} they beheld His glory? I believe John is referring to that time when he was on the mountain with James and Peter. And Jesus revealed his true nature. That was the Mt. of Transfiguration. When those three men saw Jesus in all of his glory. It says that they were blinded by His glory. He was transfigured. Meaning his true nature was on display in that one moment of time. And the Bible says when they lifted up their eyes they saw no one but Jesus.

Oh, wouldn't that be wonderful. If we could just keep our eyes on Jesus and not on the faults of our brothers and sisters. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim. In the light of His glory and grace."

"We beheld His glory." And John says in Vs 14 that that glory was full of grace and truth." Not half grace...Not half truth. but, all the grace *there is — is in Jesus.*

And all the truth there is ... is in Jesus. { Oh, dear friends, let me tell you what we have here in Vs 14. We have the wonderful incarnation of Jesus Christ. *Did you get it? Good*

(20) Secondly, God revealed himself in the instruction of John the Baptist. Look at Vs 15:

John the Baptist bore witness and this is what he said: "This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for he existed before me."

Now, notice what John is saying. He said that Jesus came after Him. IS THAT TRUE? YES IT IS. John the Baptist was six months older than Jesus, if you're looking at it from the time of their birth. You see, John was a second cousin to Jesus; and he was six months older than Jesus.

So, "the one coming after me," he said, "is the one who lived before me." He has always existed. And in that one statement John the Baptist is giving testimony to the deity of Jesus Christ. He was first. Meaning: "Priority" A prior claim in the pre-existed one. The one existing before he was born as a baby.

(30) Now, third, in Vs. 16-17, I want you to see the revelation of God in the involvement of every believer in His life. Vs 16 says: "For of His fullness we have all received, ~~and~~ grace upon grace, for the law was given through Moses; but grace and truth ^{are} realized through Jesus Christ."

Let me try and make an application. May be as a Christian you have gotten a little burden down, lately, with some problem. May be you have been seeking for answers to those problems. May be you have even tried businesses. You know, getting active doing what you think God would have you do in order to solve those problems. Or, there might be many other ways that you are trying. Things you are doing in order to solve a problem.

You know, it really hit me, here, in Vs. 16: There is only one answer. And that is Jesus.

If you would permit me to over simplify. Let me show you the point of that phrase: "Out of His fullness we have all received." The point is: There is an unlimited supply from Jesus that frankly, dear friends, we are not tapping. It says: "Grace upon grace." The idea is that grace is what God gives to you. We really don't deserve it. But, ^{God} ~~He~~ just loves us and he gives us His grace. So, every time you receive something from God, ^{you miss what} there is still more to receive. Isn't that strange?

I have noticed in human terms, if I take something from a pile there seems to be less left in the pile. But, that isn't the way it is with Jesus. When you take something from the pile of grace, as it were, the pile gets bigger. There is more ^{then there} ~~than here~~ was to begin with.

We sang the song a few minutes ago. And the words are so true. ^{(415) - He Giveth more Grace} The chorus: "His

love has no limit. His grace has no measure. His power has no boundary known unto man? For out of his infinite riches in Jesus, he giveth, and giveth, and giveth again." ^(Amen)

Do you understand
~~You~~ see, Jesus just can not stop giving.

And every time you receive a little grace from the Lord, man, there is a lot more to be given. { Actually we are settling for second best when we let it go and we stop learning from the lord. Not receiving from His life because when you don't you are not getting anything. Do you understand? But, every time you take something, man alive, He is just waiting to throw you more. Oh, listen, dear friends, this is a wonderful principle to apply to your life. In Jesus is everything I need.

⁽³⁸⁹⁾ We sing: "More about Jesus would I know. More of His grace to others show; More of His saving fullness see. More of His love who died for me." That should be our driving passion, *to know more about Jesus*

Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:18 that to grow, to have maturity as a believe is to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Do you understand? God's grace will never run out. The barrel will never run dry.

Isn't it amazing how we go to a hundred people trying to get answers and Jesus is waiting there saying: "Hay! I have it all. Why don't you just come around sometime. Come around and receive a little grace and see what I will do. Take a little grace from me and I will give you more than you ever thought possible." What a beautiful verse in application. Aren't you glad you came to church today?

(40) O.K. let's come to Vs 18. In the fourth place, I want you to see, the revelation of God in the identity of God. Vs 18 says: "No man has seen God at any time."

You say, "Wait a minute. I thought God appeared to people in the O.T.?" Notice translation ~~leaves~~ the definite article "THE" ^{is not in} ~~out in~~ front of the word "GOD." It is not there.

It just says "no man has seen God". PERIOD!

Now, when the articles is left out it refers to the Nature of God, ^{and} Remember, I discussed this principle with you back in John 1:1. "THE WORD WAS GOD". Meaning: nature, being, and substance.

And so in Vs 18 the meaning is ~~is~~ e. No man has seen the true nature and being of God. And of course that is true.

Now, God has manifested himself. He has shown different demonstrations of His power. But, dear friends, no man has seen his true, full complete nature and being.

Now, watch this carefully. Vs 18 says: "the only begotten" .. WHAT? ..GOD! Some translation might have the word "SON". "The only begotten son." But, the earliest manuscripts have the reading "GOD" not SON. It is only later manuscripts that have "SON" in order to explain the content. But, I like the word that is nearer the times of the original writings.

So, it says "THE ONLY BEGOTTEN GOD." What a tremendous statement. Share that with someone who tries to tell you that Jesus, if He is the only begotten, couldn't be God.

When John 1:18 says in the earliest manuscripts "the only begotten God."

Also, Vs 18 says: "Who is at the Father's side." What does it mean to be at the side of someone? It means: affection, love, trust, closeness, intimate.

Again, watch this carefully. This is good. The son and the father are close. HOW CLOSE? They are God. One and the same. The mystery of mysteries. God can manifest himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And He can, also, localize himself in a human body without limiting His eternal presence. God can be everywhere at once. And at the same time, he can localize himself in the form of a human body.

O.K., "the only begotten God" who is at the side of the Father, Vs 18 goes on to say, "He has made Him known." The phrase: "made known" means: "to let out." This word was always used in terms of "unfolding teaching." Letting out a principle for example. Unfolding a teaching or a new truth.

Now, let me put it together for you. Vs 18 is saying that Jesus who is in a close relationship with the Father, who no man has ever seen as to essences and being, this Jesus has unfolded the nature of the teaching of God to the whole world. HOW ABOUT THAT? In other words, if you want to know something about the eternal God, where should you go? TO JESUS! And know that in that physical body the entire fullness of God, everything that is God's, all of his attributes and power, are right there in the person of Jesus Christ.

I thought ... WOW!! What a tremendous principle to live by.

Dear friends, we are not left to confusion about God. God has given to us an every lasting revelation of Himself in bodily form. Namely, Jesus Christ.

And the Bible also teaches that when we get to heaven we are going to see Jesus. He is going to have the same body in which he arose from the dead. We are going to see the wounds in his hands and in his side and in his feet. We are going to see him.

And do you know what the bible says is going to happen when we see Jesus? The Bible tells us what is going to happen. It says that all believers ~~and angels~~ will break out in praise and adoration when Jesus steps forth in that body in which He died. And all will see Him and say: "There is the savior. There is the one who died for me. Worthy is the lamb who was slain to receive glory and honor and praise.

And dear friends, all heaven will break out in ^{lay}son. Man! You talk about being part of a heavenly choir. I tell you it is going to be something tremendous. THE SON, JESUS, HAS UNFOLDED THE **E**TERNAL GOD. (Armen)

And that is why communion is so important. We are remembering that Jesus is the eternal God. The only one worthy of our worship and praise and adoration. The only one who can save us from our sins.

Let's close with a word of prayer

~~And that man, that prophet that we recognize in the third
Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist, God chose to reveal himself.~~
~~Prayer God -~~
you who have an ear, let him hear what the words of his mess
Shed like pray