

WEEK TWENTY

The Virgin Birth

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How like the characteristic straightforward way of the Bible to tell us first that a virgin should conceive and bear a son and then tell us that this virgin-born Son, without a human father should be called Immanuel, "God with us." Here the Bible simply expresses an obvious fact: the deity of Christ depends upon His virgin birth. Jesus Christ was not born as other people are. He is not the son of a human father. Rather, He was miraculously conceived in the womb of a virgin. The Spirit of God Himself miraculously caused the conception of the Lord Jesus.

All who understand the simplest, plainest doctrines in the Bible will understand why the Saviour must be born of a virgin. Men are tainted with sin. The whole race is fallen since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. Every child ever born comes into this world with the curse of sin upon him. Every child is born but to die. And if Jesus were to be without the taint of sin, He needed to be conceived and born in a way different from the usual course of mankind. He was conceived and born of a virgin. Jesus had no human father. Wicked men who did not want to honor Jesus as the

Christ of God, who were not willing to bow to Him as their Lord and Saviour, have falsely stated that the Hebrew word for virgin in Isaiah 7:14, did not necessarily mean virgin, but only a young woman, whether married or single. But that statement is as unscholarly as it is malicious. The word here used for virgin (the Hebrew word *almah* is used six other times in the Old Testament. I have just read the six other verses in the Bible which use this word, and even a casual reader would be convinced that the meaning is as translated in Isaiah 7:14, a virgin.

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST:
HIS HUMILIATION

HUMILIATION

The word humiliation should not be interpreted to mean embarrassing or disgraceful when applied to Christ. It rather speaks of His humility. It describes the condition of our Savior as He humbled Himself to be like us.

Philippians 2:5-8: What form was Christ in? _____

Did Jesus feel as though He was robbing or stealing something when He claimed equality with God? _____

How did He make Himself? _____

Though He was God, what form did He take? _____

What likeness did He take? _____

In what manner did Jesus ultimately humble Himself? _____

This week, you will learn three intimately related doctrinal teachings that deal with the humility of Jesus Christ.

1. Incarnation
2. Kenosis
3. Hypostatic Union

INCARNATION

The doctrine of incarnation was briefly discussed in our last lesson as we studied the preincarnate Christ. You learned that incarnation means *enfleshment*. One

might also use the word *embodiment*. Incarnation refers to the act of Jesus Christ becoming a man with flesh, bones and every characteristic of man with one exception.

Hebrews 4:15: What was that one exception? _____

The humanity of Jesus does not receive the same scrutiny as His deity. However, there have been those such as the *Marconians* and the *Gnostics* who denied that Jesus possessed a real body. They reason that all that belonged to the material world is evil. Since Jesus could not be evil, He must have only appeared to have a body.

This reveals the danger of those who supposedly have a "higher knowledge," as they claimed. These "higher critics" based their assumptions on a knowledge apart from and contradictory to the Scriptures.

1 John 4:1-3: What do those who are of God confess? _____

What spirit denies that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh? _____

2 John 1:7: How does John describe those who deny the incarnation? _____

John 1:1: What was in the beginning? _____

Who was the Word? _____

John 1:14: What was God (the Word) made into? _____

Who was He recognized as? _____

Colossians 2:9: What dwells in Jesus? _____

How does it dwell in Him? _____

Hebrews 10:4-10: What was prepared for Jesus? _____

What did Jesus offer once for all? _____

Romans 1:3: How was Jesus the son of David? _____

Romans 8:3: How did the Son of God condemn sin? _____

The cults, heretics and false prophets will deny that God has come in the flesh. They will assert that Jesus isn't God or that if Jesus was God, He only "appeared" to have flesh. It is a mystery to them to see how God could live in the flesh.

1 Timothy 3:16: How was God manifest? _____

Luke 24:39 & John 20:27: Even after the resurrection, what did Jesus declare concerning Himself? Was He in the form of a spirit or in the flesh? _____

Review

What does humiliation describe? _____

What is another word for incarnation? _____

What did Marconians and Gnostics deny? _____

What does Scripture declare? _____

Day
1

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. Isaiah predicted His coming and the unique nature of His virgin birth seven hundred and fifty years in advance.

Isaiah 7:14: What was the miraculous sign predicted? _____

Some liberal theologians and unbelievers attempt to say that the Hebrew word *almah* means a young woman rather than a virgin. However, Charles Ryrie accurately points out, "There is no instance where it can be proved that *almah* designates a young woman who is not a virgin."

Tom Malone challenges the "blatant, insidious attacks of the rationalists" when he says, "The birth mentioned in Isaiah 7:14, was to be a miraculous sign to the house of David and to all the world. How could the natural birth of a baby boy be a special sign? Hasn't this happened millions of times? No, in order to be a sign it must be a birth by a virgin who had not known man."

The Bible itself is the most credible evidence that that Isaiah prophecy is accurately translated as "a virgin." Matthew and Luke wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. Greek was the language of their time. Hebrew was the primary language of the Old Testament. The Old Testament had been already been translated into Greek. This translation is called the Septuagint. The septuagint translates *alma* as *parthenos* in Isaiah 7:14. Matthew quotes this portion of Scripture in his very first chapter. There is no dispute that *parthenos* means a virgin. Matthew and Luke both confirm the translation as virgin to be correct!

Matthew 1:22-23: Quoting Isaiah, who

does Matthew say would give birth to the Savior? _____

Luke also records the birth of Christ. He gives the account of Gabriel's announcement to Mary. She testifies to the fact that she indeed was a virgin.

Luke 1:27: How is Mary described? _____

Luke 1:34-35: What was the basis for Mary's questioning of the angel prediction that she would give birth? _____

The angel declared that it was possible, not because of natural means but because

The virgin birth is a necessary doctrine for the deity of Jesus Christ. Ryrie is mistaken on this point. He suggests that even if Jesus wasn't virgin born He could have still been deity.

"What is the purpose of the Virgin Birth? It need not be the necessary means of preserving Christ sinless, since God could have overshadowed two parents so as to protect the baby's sinlessness had He so desired."

Careless statements like that should never be made. There is a half-truth and a whole lie in this supposition. If Jesus had not been virgin born, He would not have been the Son of God. He would have been the son of Joseph. The issue is not only His sinless nature but also His deity. Ryrie's philosophy would necessitate a man becoming God rather than God becoming a man.

Luke was very careful to note that although

many assumed Jesus to be the son of Joseph. He was not.

Luke 3:23: What words does Luke use to demonstrate the error of believing Jesus to be the son of Joseph? _____

Matthew's genealogy is also careful to point out that Jesus was a son of Mary but not Joseph. The reason each of these goes to this effort is so that people realize that Jesus is the Son of God, not of Joseph. This claim is the very reason the Jews sought to kill Him.

Matthew 1:16: How does Matthew distinguish that Joseph is not the father of Jesus? _____

John 19:7: Even the Jews recognized that Jesus confessed that He was the Son of _____.

We will continue discussing the virgin birth tomorrow.

Review

How far in advance did Isaiah prophecy of the virgin birth? _____

What Hebrew word did Isaiah use which always means virgin? _____

Why does Tom Malone say that the virgin birth is important because it was to be a _____.

DAY
2

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

The Virgin Birth is necessary because the sin nature is passed through the man. Although Eve was the first to eat the fruit, Adam bore the responsibility. He was to be the spiritual leader. It was Adam who received the command not to eat before Eve was fashioned from his rib. It was his responsibility to teach Eve. However, when Eve had eaten, Adam followed her. Adam bore the greater responsibility.

M. R. DeHaan M. D. suggests in his book, *The Chemistry of the Blood*, that a child's blood comes from its father rather than its mother. So the blood of Jesus would have come from God the Father rather than from Mary. This of course is the means of His sinless blood. For this reason, Jesus, the second Adam was able to shed His sinless blood as an atonement for our sins.

Romans 5:12: How did sin enter into the world? _____

Adam bore the responsibility. He allowed his position of spiritual leadership to be usurped. Rather than restrain her, he looked on as she disobeyed.

Genesis 3:6: Where was Adam when Eve ate the fruit? _____

What did Adam do afterwards? _____

Adam abdicated his role as the spiritual leader in the home. Rather than take a stand, rather than lead his wife, rather than stand up and say no, rather than set the example Adam consented to his wife and plunged the world into sin and chaos. Every ill in the world today can be traced back to this moment.

It is well worth our attention to recognize that Adam was held responsible. He could not shift the blame to his wife. He couldn't say "It was all her fault." Men should stand up and take note: God holds us responsible for the spiritual condition of our homes! Don't abandon the spiritual leadership

of your home to your wife. She may be godly, wise, prudent and all that the bible says she should be. But God has called you to lead. God holds you accountable.

Romans 5:19: Whose disobedience led to the fall of so many others? _____

1 Corinthians 15:22: Who brought death upon all? _____

We see that this one man Adam impacted the entire world in a regrettable way. The only escape from this condemnation would be a second Adam unmarked by the sin nature. It must be one whose bloodline was pure and undefiled.

Romans 5:14: Who was Adam a figure of? _____

Jesus is the second Adam. Just as Adam knew no earthly father neither did Jesus. His lineage, which is always traced through the father, was heavenly. This was only possible because of the virgin birth that interrupted a corrupt bloodline. Therefore, His blood was pure from all sin.

Matthew 27:4: What type of blood did Judas realize he had betrayed. _____

It is for this reason, so many Scriptures refer to the blood of Christ as the source of our redemption. The Adamic blood had been passed on to all men including Joseph did not flow through the veins of Jesus because Joseph was not His father. His blood is precious, unique, unlike any other. It is spotless and pure. It is the only source of redemption.

1 Peter 1:18-19: Whith what are we redeemed? _____

Romans 5:19: Just as the sinful blood of Adam brought sin to the entire race, what does the blood of Christ bring to many? _____

1 Corinthians 15:22: Just as Adam's sinful blood brought death to all, the sinless blood of Christ brings what to all who apply it? _____

Returning to Ryrie's false assertion, we

must recall that it wasn't the overshadowing of Mary that made Jesus sinless. The overshadowing of the Holy Ghost made her conceive the child of God. Jesus was begotten of God the Father. Because God was His Father rather than Joseph, His bloodline was pure and untainted. So we see that the Virgin Birth is an important doctrine of the Word of God. Without this we do not have a divine Savior. No wonder Satan attacks the virgin birth of Christ!

The word *begotten* is translated from the Greek *ginomai* or genes. It simply means to *generate*. *Mono*, of course, means sole, singular or alone. Place these words together and we have *monogenes* or *only begotten!* Many modern bible versions find it convenient to rob their readers of such a valuable truth preserved in the Scriptures. They will give you the word only but withhold begotten. This dilutes and destroys the diety of Christ leaving Him as unique but not generated by the Father. But let me declare, my friend, that Jesus bears the genes and dna of the Father. He is the only begotten Son of God! and not the son of Adam or Joseph.

John 1:14: What relationship does Jesus have to the Father? _____

John 3:16: What relationship does Jesus have to God? _____

Never forget his reply to Mary and Joseph as a young Boy. Remember they had lost track of Him. When they found Him in the temple they rebuked Him. Jesus reminded them of His true Father. Listen to His answer.

Luke 2:49: How did Jesus respond? _____

As we have grown to expect, God settled this issue long ago. The seed of this truth was sown all the way back in Genesis. There we saw a hint at the virgin birth. Decendants are always refered to as the seed of a man with one notable exception.

Genesis 3:15: In the prophetic passage of the Deliverer, whose seed would He be of? _____

What a declaration of the Virgin Birth!

DAY
3

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

KENOSIS

This may be a new vocabulary word for many of you. Don't fret. It is simply a Greek word that students of the Bible use to describe a bible doctrine specifically taught in Philippians 2:6-7.

Philippians 2:6-7: What did Jesus make Himself? _____

Kenoo is the Greek word that is translated "made himself of no reputation." It may also be translated to make *empty* or *abase*.

The doctrine of *Kenosis* is simply the teaching that Jesus voluntarily limited Himself during His earthly ministry.

There are many wordy and lengthy debates and discussions over this doctrine. Some have even suggested that Jesus ceased to be God or surrendered His divine attributes during His humiliation. If this were true then He would not have been the God-man. He would have simply been a man. Jesus never surrendered His attributes. However, He did not always utilize them.

This can easily be illustrated with a relationship between a father and his sons. I don't know a father that hasn't wrestled with his boys. Can you see where I'm going with this? Seldom has a father ever caused serious injury although he easily could. Why? Because he has limited the amount of strength he will use.

Playing the old game of hide and seek is often more like "Hide and don't seek." While we can hear their little giggles under blanket we look everywhere else, limiting our vision so we don't see or find them too quickly.

While these illustrations may be an oversimplification, they should help us to understand that while Jesus had all of His divine resources He voluntarily emptied Himself and "made Himself of no reputation."

Although Jesus identified Himself as the all sufficient I AM in John 8:58, we find that He limited Himself to the needs of the flesh. He allowed Himself to be touched with our infirmities but lived without iniquity.

Hebrews 4:15: Was Jesus touched or affected with the infirmities of mankind with the exception of sin? _____

The following passages of Scripture reveal the human capacity and feelings Jesus experienced.

Luke 2:51-52: Did Jesus subject Himself to authority? _____

How did Jesus grow? _____

John 4:6: What physical weakness or trait is revealed about Jesus? _____

John 4:7: What did Jesus desire? _____

John 19:28: What physical craving did Jesus experience? _____

Matthew 4:2: Jesus physical need did Jesus suffer? _____

Matthew 21:18: What physical need did Jesus suffer? _____

Matthew 8:24: What was Jesus doing? _____

John 11:35: How did Jesus reveal His emotions? _____

The King of Kings was born in a stable. He had Peter catch a fish to pay taxes for Him. Jesus having access to all of the glories and riches of heaven, humbled Himself so that He might bestow those riches upon us.

Luke 9:58: What did Jesus not have? _____

Write **2 Corinthians 8:9.**

While most people understand the purpose for teaching the deity of Christ, some may wonder why it is necessary to emphasize His humanity. Remember, it was not until He became like us that He could be our substitute. God cannot die in the Spirit. He became a man so that He might take our death upon Himself.

Hebrews 2:9: What did Jesus taste? _____

Who did He taste if for? _____

Isn't it great to know that He tasted death in your place! You don't have to wonder if you were included. God's Word declares that you are!

Hebrews 2:14-15: What did Jesus take part in? _____

Why did He take part in death? _____

Romans 8:3-4:

How did God send His Son? _____

He emptied Himself that we might be full. He gave of Himself for us. *Kenosis* is a wonderful word that describes the great sacrifice of a great Savior for a people with a great need. He left heaven's glory and became like us so that we might become like Him.

1 John 3:2: How will we see Jesus? _____

What will happen to us? _____

Wont it be wonderful when the tables are turned!

DAY
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APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

THE HYPOSTATIC UNION

The emphasis of this lesson has been to demonstrate the humanity of Jesus. However, it must be stressed that His humanity never undermined His deity. Jesus was fully God and fully man at the same time. This is known as the hypostatic union.

Throughout the Scriptures we find Jesus referred to both as the Son of Man and as the Son of God. There is no contradiction. He is the son of mankind through Mary and the Son of God through the Holy Ghost.

As the Son of Man and the Son of God, He is in full possession of each nature. We must recall that sin has not always, neither will it always be a part of the nature of mankind. Adam lived in innocence before the fall. When the Kingdom is establish man will live without sin once again. Jesus lived completely in the human nature without sin and in full deity.

The centurion at the cross summed up the hypostatic union in a few words recognizing both the humanity and deity of Jesus.

Mark 15:39: "And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this _____ was the Son of _____."

Martin Luther expresses amazement at the humiliation of Christ. "The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding."

This is a complex truth that is beyond complete human comprehension. In fact, to some it is bizarre. Because they cannot wrap their minds around it they forsake and ridicule it rather than believe God's Word. As people of faith, we are not bound

to understand the intricate workings of an almighty, omniscient God. Our part is simply to believe.

Very often people will have an injury or sickness that requires surgery or medication. With modern technology at our fingertips, we will often do research on the internet to better understand our needs and the potential treatments. While there is great wisdom in this, our research never qualifies us to perform complicated surgery. We may understand our condition and our treatment better but would not dare to take a scalpal in hand to treat ourselves. That is because our understanding still falls short. A large measure of our treatment is based on our faith in the physician.

Likewise, we must have faith in the Great Physician who heals us from the disease and injuries of sin. His Word is our prescription. While we may understand it in a very real way, there are still some aspects that are hard to comprehend. Many people forsook Jesus because of His hard sayings.

John 6:60-61: Why were people murmuring? _____

We must not reject the truths of God's Word simply because we find them difficult. John 3:13 might be one of those complicated passages which even hints at the hypostatic union.

John 3:13: Where is the son of man? _____

Jesus was obviously, on the earth as He spoke with Nicodemus. Yet He declares that He IS in heaven. The only way to be both places is through the divine nature of the Son of Man: the hypostatic union.

Can a believer reject this truth though it may not appeal to his natural senses? _____

Isaiah 55:9: In what ways are God's thoughts superior to man's? _____

Review

Let's take a moment to review what we have learned throughout this week.

What does the humiliation of Christ describe? _____

What three major doctrines were covered under the subject of His Humiliation?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What is the mystery of godliness? _____

What miraculous sign did Isaiah prophecy of? Give the Scripture reference. _____

What does the Hebrew word *almah* and the Greek word *parthenos* mean? _____

Through whom did we inherit our sin nature? _____

Why did Jesus not inherit this nature? _____

What was the first Scripture to indicate that the Deliverer would be virgin born? _____

What does Kenosis mean? _____

From what Scripture do we get the word Kenoo and how is it translated? _____

What doctrine teaches that Jesus is fully God and fully man? _____

DAY
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APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

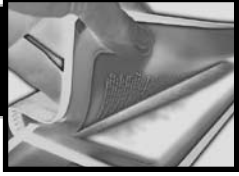


TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S MESSAGE