



Text: John 1:1-3; 14-18

Introduction

- o More than 35 miracles performed by the Lord Jesus are recorded in the four Gospels.
- o They demonstrated His power over diseases, nature, demons & death.
- o They authenticated His claims as the Messiah God sent.

Introduction

- o But which is the greatest miracle of all?
- o The Greatest & Grandest Miracle is the Miracle of Christmas!
- o The Incarnation of the Son of God!

The Word Became Flesh

- o John's prologue tells the Christmas story in theological terms.
- o He began by stating that Jesus is the eternal Word who was with God in the beginning (vs. 1-3).

The Word Became Flesh

- o The Word came as a light into the darkness of this world (vs.4-5).
- o Then in v. 14, he tells us how this happened: *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."*

The Word Became Flesh

- o This verse states the doctrine of the Incarnation of Christ!
- o John says, *"In the beginning was the Word,"* and then at a certain time, *"The Word became flesh ..."*

The Word Became Flesh

- o "The Son of God...being very and eternal God...did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin."
- o –Westminster Confession (8:1)

The Word Became Flesh

- o Christ's incarnation means that the Son of God became human in the fullest sense, without losing any of his divinity.
- o Paul says, "*For in him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily*" (Col. 2:9).

The Word Became Flesh

- o The Incarnation is the most stupendous miracle ever!
- o Paul writes, "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh ...*" (1 Tim. 3:16).

The Word Became Flesh

- o We cannot fathom how one person can be both God and man.
- o But the Bible reveals that Jesus possesses two distinct natures—one divine, one human—without any mingling or confusion between the two.

The Word Became Flesh

- o Three reasons for the Incarnation:
 1. To Die
 2. To Sympathise
 3. To Show us how to live

The Word Became Flesh

- o 1. To Die
- o When Jesus took on our flesh he gained a human body which enabled him to suffer death for us.

The Word Became Flesh

- o 2. To Sympathise
- o Jesus also possessed mind, emotions and will: he felt all that we feel, including joy and sorrow, weariness and temptation. Because of this, he is able to sympathise with us (Heb. 4:15)

The Word Became Flesh

- o 3. To Set an Example
- o Moreover, Jesus lived a human life in the same world in which we live.
- o Because he truly lived as we live, Jesus sets an example for us to follow.

He Tabernacled Among Us

- o John tells us not merely that *"The Word became flesh,"* but also that he *"dwelt among us."*
- o John is undoubtedly directing us back to the exodus when God dwelt among the Israelites in the tabernacle.

He Tabernacled Among Us



He Tabernacled Among Us

- o The tabernacle was humble in appearance.
- o The same was true of Jesus.
- o He came, unattended by any imposing retinue of angels.
- o To unbelieving Israel he had no form nor comeliness.

The Tabernacle was the centre of Israel's camp.



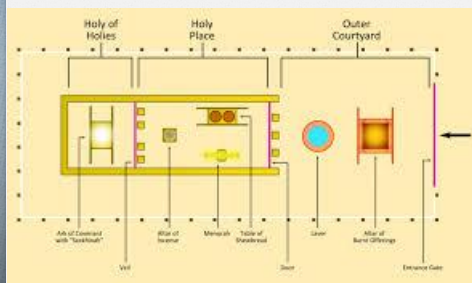
He Tabernacled Among Us

- o Jesus must always be at the centre of everything we do, everything we believe, and everything for which we hope.

Beholding His Glory

- o The tabernacle was also called the "tent of meeting."
- o It was the place where people met with God and saw the Shekinah glory.

Beholding His Glory



Beholding His Glory



Beholding His Glory

- o John applies this to Jesus: *"and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father."*

Beholding His Glory

- o 1) The Glory of His Person
- o Great as John the Baptist was, he insisted that Christ was surpassingly more glorious.
- o *John 1:15*

Beholding His Glory

- o 2) The Glory of His Provision
- o *And of his fullness have all we received, and grace upon grace (v.16)*
- o There is grace after grace for all who come to Jesus, in never-ending provision for us.

Beholding His Glory

- o 3) His revelation of God to us
- o John says, *"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (v.18).*

Beholding His Glory

- o Do you see the glory of God in the person, provision and revelation of Jesus Christ?
- o For salvation
- o For sanctification

Full of Grace and Truth

- o 1) Grace
- o John concludes his great theology of Christmas saying, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... full of grace and truth (v.14).*

Full of Grace and Truth

- o 2) Truth
- o The tablets of the Ten Commandments (God's Word) were kept in the Tabernacle.
- o Today, the glory of Jesus, the Word, shines into our hearts through the Holy Bible.

Challenge

If we have seen God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ, and if we have received God's grace at the cross of Christ, then let us love and desire the knowledge of God's truth so that we might glorify Him through our lives of humble, obedient and Christ-like service.