

“The Best Way to Communicate an Idea”

John 1:1-18

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Christmas Eve Devotion

A storm was raging outside a little girl’s bedroom and she was frightened. She cried out every time the thunder clapped and the lightning streaked across the sky. Each time she called for her parents, they came to her bedside to comfort and reassure her. After the third trip, her mother said, “You don’t have to worry about anything because God is here and He will take care of you.” The little girl quickly responded, “I know God is here, but right now I need someone with skin on him.”

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” John 1:14.

God knew that this little girl’s plea was universal. Everybody needs a God with skin on him. Why? There are many reasons, but let me mention two for us to think about on this holy night.

God in human form helps us to understand better who He is. The incarnation provides us with a new way of understanding, according to John Claypool, “the mystery of the One who stands behind all reality.”

When I talk to people that do not believe in God, I ask them to describe the God in whom they do not believe. After listening to them, my usual response is, “I don’t believe in that God, either, but would you let me tell you about the God I do believe in?” I then proceed to tell them about Jesus, this man of compassion, grace, truth, power, love and goodness.

To be candid with you, I don’t like the God that many people describe, even religious people. On the other hand, I love the God that Jesus reveals. As a matter of fact, I trust him with my life!

God in human form also helps us know that God understands us. Because He chose to dwell among us in human form and share the human condition with us, we now know that He is fully aware of what it is like to be tempted, disappointed, lonely, sad, heartbroken, misunderstood and rejected. He understands what it means to struggle and suffer. There is no emotion or experience, good or bad, which is beyond his comprehension.

A natural bond develops between strangers that go through similar experiences. I’ve seen it occur many times. Cancer patients become like family as they share hospital corridors and treatment rooms. Their loved ones do, too.

The same thing occurs between God and us when we see His footprints on the road we are traveling. “The Word became flesh” creates a natural bond between Him and us.

The scientist, J. Robert Oppenheimer wrote, “The best way to send an idea is to wrap it up in a person.” Thank you, Lord, for the baby “wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. We like the idea he came to deliver.”