

And Behold . . . the Man

Jesus - the Man of Sorrows.

Eternal Life Ministries (sermon) 19/03/2017)

- Jesus Was

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| The truthful Man | . . . falsely accused. |
| The innocent Man | . . . illegally tried and wrongly convicted. |
| The gentle Man | . . . who suffered punishment few could imagine, much less endure. |
| The murdered Man | . . . who forgave His own merciless killers. |
| The divine Man | . . . who died as a common criminal. |
| The willing Man | . . . who gave His life for others. |
| The ordinary Man | . . . who was, in fact, the extraordinary Son of God. |

The pathway Jesus took to the cross of Calvary is commonly called "the Passion." This sorrowful path weaved through soul-wrenching prayers and illicit deals made in shadowy darkness. It descended into corrupted courts bereft of justice and circled by prejudiced rulers stripped of power. On this pathway of His passion, Jesus paused for a torturous scourging and plodded on doggedly to a horrific death on a hillside called the Skull. But why?

(Behold the man by Charles R. Swindoll)

The Humanity of Christ

- Jesus-the Man - The fact / the truth

When you look at the complete/ combined Gospel narrative of Christ Passion, with truly open eyes, you will, as Swindoll says,

“come face to face with Jesus-the Man of Sorrows. If you're honest, you'll find the amazing answer to why . . . and you'll change. When you stop long enough to look, to think, to imagine, and to truly *Behold the Man*, you'll never be the same again.”

(Behold the man by Charles R. Swindoll)

It is the “Ordinary man” that Jesus was that I want draw your attention to this morning with regards to “The Passion”. He was flesh and blood, just like you and me, He knew what it was to feel both physical pain and pleasure. He felt, He loved, He cried, He knew joy and sorrow, He knew anger and I am sure He knew the feeling and experience of a rolling good belly laugh. In short Jesus was just like every other man who was born of a woman. He was physically and emotionally just like you and me

Too often, I think, when we think of the time from the last supper and His death, and burial, we actually have blinkers on. We think, with the benefit of hindsight, viewing as we do the glorious resurrection and accession to heaven, more of His divinity than his humanity. But we must understand that his humanity is as important as his divinity.

Pontius Pilate said of Him in John 9:15 “behold the man”

On that day that was all that everyone in Jerusalem saw Him to be, just a man. The man, the man of the hour for all the wrong human reasons.

But when Pontius Pilate utter these words He was barely recognisable as the man from the night before, for all the wounding that He had received. Following this statement, He was led away to be crucified.

- In His humanity, He desired to enjoy a last meal with his closest friends and disciple. And He felt for their coming time of sorrow and weakness.
- In His humanity, he was disappointed that His very closest friends could not stay awake and watch, a short while, with Him as He stove in anguish with what need to come next.
- In his humanity, He would have keenly felt the desertion of all who professed to love and stand by him.
- In His humanity, He would have deeply felt the dismay at being falsely accused and lied about.
- In His humanity, in His body of flesh he would have felt every single brutalizing blow of fist, stick. Felt every blow of the whip, of hammer and nail, of spear. He would have felt everything, His adrenalin would have sky rocketed and then crashed, His every nerve would have been on fire, then numbed, then on fire again. He felt hunger, thirst, and continuous pain of the most excruciating kind.

And on top of that was the public humiliation of being stripped naked for all to see.

- And in His humanity, when He died, He died. And at the very moment He, in His humanity, would have tasted with absolute certainty, the knowledge of what eternal separation from God felt like.

One writer says of that most awful moment in time

“When the Lord Jesus Christ hung upon the cross (*dead*), cosmic events accompanied by signs and wonders occurred between heaven and earth. A supernatural darkness came over the earth midday. Many theologians believe that for the first time in eternity past the fellowship between the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—was interrupted. As Christ took our sins upon Himself on the cross, His Father could not stay in fellowship with Him. (Insight re ALL of ME - ODB 01/03/2016)

- [Why - the reason / the need](#)

Jesus had to be born as a human being for several reasons.

1. One is outlined in Galatians 4:4–5: “But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” Only a man could be “born under the law.” No animal or angelic being is “under the law.” Only humans are born under the law, and only a human being could redeem other human beings born under the same law. Born under the law of God, all humans are guilty of transgressing that law. Only a perfect human—Jesus Christ—could perfectly keep the law and perfectly fulfil the law, thereby redeeming us from that guilt. Jesus accomplished our redemption on the cross, exchanging our sin for His perfect righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).
2. Another reason Jesus had to be fully human is that God established the necessity of the shedding of blood for the remission of sins (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22). The blood of animals, although acceptable on a temporary basis as a foreshadowing of the blood of the perfect God-Man, was insufficient for the permanent remission of sin because “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4). Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God, sacrificed His human life and shed His human blood to cover the sins of all who would ever believe in Him. If He were not human, this would have been impossible.

3. Furthermore, the humanity of Jesus enables Him to relate to us in a way the angels or animals never can

Hebrews 4:15 (**AMP**) For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize *and* understand our weaknesses *and* temptations, but One who has been tempted [*knowing exactly how it feels to be human*] in every respect as *we are*, yet without [*committing any*] sin.

Only a human could sympathize with our weaknesses and temptations. In His humanity, Jesus was subjected to all the same kinds of trials that we are, and He is, therefore, able to sympathize with us and to aid us. He was tempted; He was persecuted; He was poor; He was despised; He suffered physical pain; and He endured the sorrows of a lingering and most cruel death. Only a human being could experience these things, and only a human being could fully understand them through experience.

4. Finally, it was necessary for Jesus to come in the flesh because believing that truth is a prerequisite for salvation. Declaring that Jesus has come in the flesh is the mark of a spirit from God, while the Antichrist and all who follow him will deny it (1 John 4:2–3). Jesus has come in the flesh; He is able to sympathize with our human frailties; His human blood was shed for our sins; and He was fully God and fully Man. These are biblical truths that cannot be denied.

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- [The Conclusion - And what shall we say to all this](#)

All of me - ODB 01/03/2017

Sir Isaac Watts, a prolific hymn writer in the 1700's, begun as a young man when he found the music in his church sadly lacking, and his father challenged him to create something better. Isaac did. His hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" has been called the greatest in the English language and has been translated into many other languages.

Watts's worshipful third verse ushers us into the presence of Christ at the crucifixion.

*See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

The crucifixion Watts describes so elegantly stands as history's most awful moment. We do well to pause and stand with those around the cross. The Son of God strains for breath, held by crude spikes driven through His flesh. After tortured hours, a supernatural darkness descends. Finally, mercifully, the Lord of the universe dismisses His anguished spirit. An earthquake rattles the landscape. Back in the city the thick temple curtain rips in half. Graves open, and dead bodies resurrect, walking about the city (Matt. 27:51–53). These events compel the centurion who crucified Jesus to say, "Surely he was the Son of God!" (v. 54).

"The Cross reorders all values and cancels all vanities," says the Poetry Foundation in commenting on Watts's poem.

Isaac Watts concludes his hymn as it could only conclude:

"Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all."

And what shall we say to all this

Oswald Chambers, in the beginning of the 19^{00's} says it this way –

My Utmost for His Highest

A modern writer, Mark Batterson, says it this way –

**Half way is no way to live, quit holding back, quit holding out.
It's time to go all in and all out for God**

An Our Daily bread writer writing March the 1st this year says it this way -

**It is our privilege to give everything we have
to the One who gave us everything on the cross.**

But I will leave the final word to Paul writing to the Romans in the first century AD

Rom 12:1 (NLT) And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.