

Incarnation: God Comes

Lecture

- This lecture is number seven, incarnation. God comes and it's about the entrance of Jesus into human history. How many of you are superhero fans? Any of you? And if you Okay so we found all the nerds in the Comic-Con kids. Okay, so all of you there are two now I'm not an expert on this. I take my kids to all of the superhero movies and I never know what's going on. And one of my kids, we were at one recently, they said, "Well, no, that's DC, dad. "That's not Marvel, that's not Marvel." For those of you who are nerd friends, my Comic-Con kids. What's the primary difference between DC and Marvel in their storytelling and in their character and plot development? Anybody. Here's what I found online. Marvel focuses on characters that are more human and more like us. So Peter Parker becomes Spider-Man. He's a normal typical kid. In addition, Tony Stark becomes Iron Man and he's got his own flaws and failures and faults, he's got his own defects. In addition to these kinds of storylines DC Comics focuses more according to what I read on characters that are unlike us, they actually called them the gods. And they said that they were people that were partially human but ultimately more than human. So an example would be Superman and or my wife's favorite. I'll let you in on a little secret about Grace. She loves Wonder Woman. Her laundry room is covered with Wonder Woman stuff. She's got cup, she's got the glasses, she's got an apron. She that's her love language. I am half tempted to wear a wonder woman T-shirt just to see what happened. She really loves is very passionate about Wonder Woman and the ring tone on my wife's phone it's Wonder Woman that's how into it she is. Now what I find interesting in the realm of the superheroes and all of the movies based upon comics. Almost every storyline has some similar themes. There is a crisis on earth we are unable to save ourselves. So someone from the outside, they're sort of partially connected to our realm, but partially connected beyond our realm. You're gonna see some big themes of the Bible here and they're sort of partly human, but partly divine. And then they come in with extraordinary humility and they offer themselves as a sacrifice to save humanity. And all that is ultimately is a bunch of people who were made by God have been separated by God are longing to hear about Jesus. And so I'll read it to you, but people have insatiable appetite for these characters. Wolverine can rapidly heal from injury, Invisible Woman can become invisible as well. Nitro can reform his own body after it explodes. Superman can fly the whole cast. "Supernatural," Superhuman power, Aquaman can breath underwater, Spiderman can climb walls Wonder Woman can understand any language. Infinity is all knowing, the Silver Surfer can manipulate gravity. Doomsday can resurrect from death. Kitty Pryde can pass through solid matter and the Flash has superhuman abilities. And what's amazing is the story of Jesus Christ. The true story about the real rescuer of humanity is even greater than any superhero because not only does Jesus come from another planet, He comes from another realm. And so what we wanna talk about today is what I believe is the longing for so much cultural narrative and storytelling. And ultimately we learn that Jesus is even greater than we could conceive of some kind of superhero. All of that is under the rubric of what I'll call the doctrine of incarnation. So we'll jump right in. What does incardination mean? What does it mean? John 1:1,2 "In the beginning was the word." So there's someone here and the word was with God. So that's God the Father. So there's somebody with God the

Father and whoever this was, the Word was God. So okay there was God. And then there was God with God, who's that? Jesus and God the Father, this is an intimation toward the Trinity. And it's an echo of Genesis one. He, speaking of Jesus was in the beginning with God. So he shows us here, Jesus is not a created being, He is the creator. This is really important because cults which deviate from Christian doctrine like Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, they say that Jesus is a created being. So in the Jehovah's Witnesses, Jesus is the created being the Archangel, Michael in Mormon false teaching, Jesus is a man who became God, but they don't see Jesus as being eternal, they don't see Him as pre-existing time. They don't see Him as the creator God, they see Him as part of the creation. And then what we read is we jumped down in John 1:14, "And the word became flesh." This invisible God made Himself visible. This external God made Himself internal to our life on planet earth. The creator entered His creation, the eternal entered into time. He who is without any physical sense of being takes upon Himself, a physical body. And the theologians will call this the incarnation. Let me just ask you a little trick question. What do you think the Carna portion in incarnation is for? What do you think? Where does Carna mean? What does Carna mean? Meat, my favorite 'cause I'm a Christian. So my favorite meal is meal is Carne asada and every time I deal I remember Jesus and I thank him from my heart, okay. Carne means meat. Jesus is God in flesh. He's God in meat. "The word became flesh and dwelt among us "He hung out on the earth "and we have seen His glory, "glory as of the only son from the Father "full of grace and truth." So greater than any superhero storyline, God becomes a man. God enters into human history. God walks on planet earth with the people that He made. And this is very important because this is God coming down, not humanity going up. This is ultimately the underlying difference between Christianity and false teaching. The Bible says that, "God came down." Other spiritualities ideologies will say that we go up to God. We don't go up to God, God comes down to us. And this is typified in the Bible, when a ladder comes down from heaven when a pillar or a fire cloud comes down from heaven or when the Holy Spirit comes down from heaven all of these are ways of God showing. The only way we're gonna be connected is if I come down humbly and connect myself with you you'll never earn your way up to be with me. And so this is not a man becoming God, this is God becoming a man. Well, ultimately we know that his name is Jesus and there are some other aspects and elements of His humanity. He is eternal from the beginning, but He is born on earth and He has a series in succession of birthdays. And the Bible says that He grew in wisdom, stature and favor with man and God in Luke chapter two. In addition, we learn that this God who was in the presence of the Father now comes to be present with us. And that's remarkable. That's unbelievable that God wants to be with you. The God wants to be in your life, the wants to be in the practical daily details of the drudgery of humanity. That he wants to be with you and so He became like you. And what I want you to well know is this that this concept of the word it is God's way of taking what has been historically up until this point something that is culturally powerful and explaining how it's ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. So let me explain this. So in the Old Testament, Isaiah chapter I think it's 55 tells us in verse one, that God works through His Word, that "My Word will not return void. "That my Word will accomplish everything "that I have sent it to do." We see that God is a God who speaks and reveals and communicates and we dealt with that. And so it says over and over in Genesis one, God said, God said, God said so for those who were Hebrew, those who were Jewish those who were seated in the Old Testament Scriptures they knew that

God got everything done. The agent of His work through something called His Word, His Word. In Greek philosophy all the way back to Heraclitus, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle. There was a concept of something called the Logos. It's the same word here in John one. And that is that there was some supernatural force that was somehow connected to the divine that brought everyone in everything into existence. John here is writing as a Hebrew. He's writing to those who are Gentiles and more Greek in their thinking. And what he brings is these two concepts together. And what he says to the Hebrews is, "Jesus is the word of God," "Jesus is what God has to say to humanity." "Jesus is how God the Father gets the work done on the earth." And to those who were Greeks and steeped in philosophy, He taught them, He is the fulfillment of all of your philosophical, longing and hopes and speculating, God has come to make Himself known in the person of Jesus. Now this is amazing and then the next question is, how did people know the God was coming? Anytime someone very important is coming. We like to get a little advanced notice amen? how many of you don't like it when relatives just show up at your house the in-laws and the outlaws, what are you doing here? We're gonna stay with you for a month. You should have called first goodbye. Okay it's good to let people know you're coming so that what? They can prepare for your coming. God gave us lots of advanced notice that Jesus was coming to earth so that God's people would be prepared to receive Him. This starts in Genesis 3:15 where after our first parents sinned 4,000 years before Jesus Christ walked on the earth God shows up and he preaches something called the Protoevangelium, the first gospel. And he says, "I will put enmity." So there's gonna be a conflict between you, Satan and the woman Eve they're all present. And between your offspring or seed your descendant, it's singular, not plural Galatians says. That means it refers to Jesus and not to the Nation of Israel. One person, not a group of people between your singular offspring and her offspring, He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel. Satan brings sin into the world and God makes a promise, Jesus is coming. Something went terribly wrong in Genesis three. And the only remedy for the problem in Genesis three human sin is the coming of Jesus. And God shows up and He declares Satan. "You have sinned, Adam and Eve, you have sinned." Everyone on earth is part of the problem. I'll send my son, He'll be the solution. And what's interesting here. Just look at it briefly in Genesis three is there any mention of an earthly Father? No. If you read the remainder of Genesis. There are a series and succession of genealogies. This guy had these kids and then this guy had these kids and it shows family lines traced through the patriarch through the man who was head of the household here it talks about Jesus' mother but there's no mention of his father, why? I believe it is the beginning of the revealing that Jesus would be born of a woman but not born of the contribution of a man. We see this clarified B.C. 700 through the Prophet Isaiah. In 714, you get this on your Christmas card, it shows up every December. Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold a Virgin, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Emmanuel. So God shows up, He says, "Jesus is coming, get ready." And he doesn't mention an earthly father. And then God speaks again through Isaiah. And he says, "Just to let you know, Jesus is still coming prepare yourself. Furthermore you'll know it's Him, "when the Virgin gives birth to a Son, "a male offspring and child," This narrows it down Amen, really narrow in history down here. And there is a debate to be honest the text, some would say that this word for Virgin does not refer to a woman that's not been intimate with a man, but it can refer to any young, single unmarried woman. I'll let you in on a little secret. In that day if you were a young unmarried, single Hebrew woman you

are a Virgin. So it's all saying the same thing despite what some of the critics might say. The story continues, Micah 5:2. He says, "But you hundreds of years "before the birth of Jesus," Oh, where's Jesus is gonna come? Bethlehem. Did Jesus' family live in Bethlehem? No, they did not, they lived in Nazareth. I've been to Nazareth it's a small town. There was only one well, that meant that the population was maybe a hundred or less. The people were poor, they lived in houses that are about the size of our parking stalls. That included space for their animals, it's not impressive. Yet it says that, though his parents lived in Nazareth that he would be born in Bethlehem. But you O Bethlehem Ephrathah, that's the region who are too little to be among the clans of Judah "From you shall come for me, one who is to be ruler." So Jesus is coming as our King in Israel whose origin is from old, from ancient days the literal Hebrew there is from eternity, okay. So we know that Jesus is coming, He's coming through a Virgin and He is coming to where? Bethlehem. And He will come as a King and He is eternal. So God is not beginning the life and ministry of Jesus at his birth, Jesus is God who had life in ministry before His birth. But those of you that know the Christmas story it says that Mary conceived by a miracle of the Holy Spirit her and Joseph did not consummate their covenant until after Jesus was birthed. And furthermore, it says that when she was pregnant, the government decreed a census for tax purposes the government only cares about your money, even the Bible would sort of support that thinking. The government wanted more taxes and isn't it amazing, God shows up to earth and the government's like, "Yeah whatever taxes, that's really what's our priority." So they decided to do a census to make sure that everybody is paying their taxes to the overbearing, overruling Roman Government. So everybody has to go to their family of origins hometown. Jesus' adoptive father, Joseph Jesus was adopted. This is why Christians love adoption and foster care. Jesus had an adoptive father named Joseph who was from the family line and a descendant of King David. The hometown for his family was Bethlehem. And so Mary, she is very pregnant, she asked to make the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem. I don't know if she rode on a donkey or walk, but if you've been pregnant, you know that this is a situation. This is unbelievable for a young pregnant girl. They arrive in Bethlehem in time for who to be born? Jesus. I've heard some people say Jesus, studied the Scriptures. And he carefully architected His life to meet its requirements, to give us the wrong perception that He was its fulfillment. And my question is, who picks things like where they're born, right? That's under the sovereign hand of God, Jesus didn't pick His mom. Jesus didn't pick where He was born. God the Father and God the Son agreed on that. And God, the Father decreed that. And then it tells us one more thing in Malachi 3:1, B.C. 400. Behold, I'll send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. In that day, when a King was coming a Harold would go before the King blow the trumpet, make the pronouncement, gather the people, "Make way for the King." He says, "I'm a King I'm coming. "And someone will prepare my coming." Who is that? It's John The Baptizer. This is actually quoted in reference to John The Baptizer Jesus, rural cousin. If you have any rural cousin you know what John's like? The Bible says he grew up in the woods, He had a steady diet of bugs and honey, if you eat bugs and sugar, you're different. That he wore a robe, I think kind of like a brown jedi robe. He was an eccentric, we would call him Ardie. Okay, so John's a little bit Ardie, he's a little bit performance oriented in his prophetic proclamation. He is quite a character and nobody can ignore him. And when he shows up, all eyes are focused on him and he is preparing the way for the coming of Jesus. Then suddenly who's coming? The Lord. This station is crucial because in the days that Jesus came over the Roman empire was an

emperor named Caesar. And you were supposed to say, "Caesar is Lord." And it was declaration that he was your highest authority. Well, there is only one true Lord. And suddenly the Lord whom you seek will come to His temple the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight behold He is coming says the Lord of Hosts. The Lord of hosts is the God who wrote rules over the scene in the unseen realm. When it speaks of host, its speaking of angelic and other supernatural spiritual beings that are part of God's unseen family, as we are part of God's seen family and crucially here it says that Jesus will not only come to Bethlehem, but that He will also arrive at this place called the temple. For those of you who know when was the temple destroyed? A.D. 70, since A.D. 70 the temple has not stood. We've been there it's ruins. It's just simply a tourist archaeological place of remembrance and for some mourning. So what does he tell us? Genesis, Jesus is coming He'll be a male son born to a woman, no intimation of an earthly father. Isaiah tells us that, furthermore his mother would be a Virgin that He will be Emmanuel God with us. And then Micah tells us he's gonna be born in Bethlehem. And then Malachi says, "All of this will happen "before A.D.70. 25% of the Bible was prophetic in nature, when it was written, predicting the future. This is one of the strongest arguments for what I'll call the inerrancy of Scripture. If God didn't write this book, who did and how did they know all of this? The same God who knows the future, rules the future and reveals the future that He will bring into account. That is such good news and hope for us because there are still promises in the word of God that we're awaiting the fulfillment of. Jesus will come back, sin and death will be no more. The eternal homecoming of God's people will be complete. He'll wipe every tear from our eyes. We can trust that all of those promises will come true at the second coming of Jesus, because all of the promises did come true regarding the first coming of Jesus. I like to say it this way. It's all about Jesus. So then that leads to questions, you look at Jesus while He is walking around on the earth. And the question is, is He fully God? Lots of people will say, religion's all basically believe the same thing. Now, we don't actually Christians believe that Jesus is God and other religions don't, so that is the difference. Daniel seven is an old Testament prophecy. That was part of the preparing for Jesus coming. He says, "I saw in the night visions and behold "with the clouds of heaven, "there came one like a son of man." The Bible is generally to be interpreted literally On occasion when it uses words like, like or as it's, God's showing us that he is using figurative language to communicate a literal truth. Okay, just a little lesson on Bible interpretation. How many of you have heard, you can't take the bible literally. Thing is would you want me to take you literally, like are we doing this with everything, or just things we don't like? And the truth is that God generally speaks in what I'll call plain literal language. And sometimes He'll use figurative language that is still communicating a truth. I'll use words like, like, or as. Because there are some things in the unseen realm and with the supernatural work of God that our human brain that is only three pounds and fallen. In addition to our limited understanding and the limitations of our language. There are times that human language is struggling and straining to communicate the fullness of the revelation of God. It goes on, there came one like a son of man. Somebody's coming but He looks like a man. And He came to the ancient of days, who's that? It's God, the father And was presented before Him, father I am here. And to Him was given, here's His resume dominion that's over angelic and human beings and glory. And a what? A kingdom that all peoples nations and languages should serve Him, this is God. This is the King of Kings, this is the Lord of Lords. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which will not, shall not pass away and His kingdom is one that should

not be destroyed. That's an unprecedented, unparalleled, unpaired claim. In that day, each nation had its own ruler and each nation had its own God. They didn't have a concept of one God who was over all the nations and all the peoples. And His name is, Jesus. Now what's interesting about this title from Daniel. This is Jesus' favorite title for Himself. If my reading in the English Bible is correct, 86 times, Jesus says that He's the son of man. What Jesus is saying is, that's me I'm here. You see him doing miracles and casting out demons and exercising authority over creation. It is the revelation that the King is here and we are seeing the power of the kingdom. A couple other things about Jesus being fully God, Mark 14:61-64, Jesus here is on trial. This would be like a Senate hearing or some sort of you know press release with some sort of media pool. Everybody's got their questions, everybody's taking notes, everyone is tuning in. The high priest, religious leader with authority asked Him. Are you the Christ, the son of the blessed one? And that means that you're of the same as the father, like father, like son. It's a way of saying God, that Jesus is the Son of God. And Jesus said, what? "I am," Jesus says "I am." Where does that title come from? Moses, there was a man named Moses who was raised up by God to be a prophet and a deliverer. And when he received his commissioning in Exodus 3:14, He is having a conversation with the burning Bush. That is not being consumed. And so the Bush tells him, go tell the Pharaoh, the guy who rules over a false demonic kingdom, that Himself is worshiped by a God, by gods that are demonic, I should say. And he is worshiped as a demonically empowered god. The real God says, "Go tell that false god, "who is your master?" "That the real God says, 'let my people go.'" Moses asks what seems to me like a fair question "Who should I say has sent me?" You can't just be like, "I met this Bush, I'm telling you." "You need to fix some things. "The foliage is frustrated, brother." Right I mean, and so what God says through the Bush and here's the point, right? The God can speak and work through anyone or anything. That's the point, if God can work through a donkey and the Bush and Pastor Mark there's hope for us all. That's the big idea. So what God does, God says, "Tell him, I Am, has sent you." That name for God was so sacred and so special that a little bit later in Exodus the 10 Commandments are given. And one is that there's only one God and you're only supposed to worship that God, and you're not supposed to take that God's name in vain. They were so afraid of taking this sacred name of God in vain, that they didn't spell it. So there's still a debate today, how exactly was this spelled? And they wouldn't say it, it's such a sacred name. You wouldn't write it or say it and you wouldn't spell it in totality for fear of doing so irreverently and violating the 10 Commandments. Jesus shows up and says, "I Am." Just to say that sacred name of God, Yahweh is something that was not done. Let alone to say, that's me. And he said, Jesus said, "I Am, and you will see the Son of man is back To Daniel seven. Is like, "Not only was I there telling Moses what to do. "I was the one in the vision that Daniel received "seated at the right hand of power." He's ruling and reigning as co-ruler with God the Father and coming with the clouds of heaven. The high priest, the religious leader, tears his clothes. That is a public declaration for them of just absolutely being undone and rot. It's demonstrating externally what they're feeling internally, the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? "You have heard His what?" Blasphemy. What's blasphemy? Somebody says their God. Jesus said He's God. And they had a trial set up and they had witnesses sort of in the queue. And Jesus is up first, "All right, are you God?" "Yes, I am." Well, then the other witnesses can go home. Whatever you heard Him say, doesn't matter. He just told us all, He's God. He's the God of Moses, He's the God of Daniel. He's the God of the Bible. He's the God

that rules over all the nations, He's the only God, He's our God can you believe He said this it's blasphemy, let's kill Him which is the penalty for blasphemy. So let me say this. Jesus said He was, God. The reason that Christians say that Jesus is God, is because we echo Jesus who said He was God. Okay, so He'd be like, "Why do you think Jesus's God," He said He was. And he showed he was. There's another occasion, John 8:58,59. Truly, truly I say to you before Abraham was, I am. Abraham lived thousands of years prior. Abraham was the father of their nation and faith. There was a God who showed up and revealed Himself and loved Abraham and gave Him grace and changed His destiny. And he says, "Yeah, that was me. "I was there, I told Moses what to do. "I showed up and I saved Abraham and his family. "And Daniel was giving you a little sneak, preview "a little commercial for what it would be like "when I showed up. "Truly, truly I say to you before Abraham was, "I Am." So they picked up stones to throw at Him but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. Stoning someone with rocks was the penalty for blasphemy. If you say, you're God, we're gonna throw rocks and kill you to make sure that you are not a repeat offender. There were no second time blasphemers. So the point here is this, Jesus is either telling the truth or He's lying. If I could just make this as simple as possible. And what He says is, "Truly, truly," some 40 times in John's gospel alone, he says, truly, truly or some of your translations will say, "I tell you the truth." And Jesus says, "I tell you the truth. "I tell you the truth, I'm the God of Abraham." They say, "You are declaring yourself to be God." Last section of Scripture on this, John 10:30-33, "There are lots of ways "that we can argue or reason for Christ as fully God." We could look at His miracles, we could look at the fact that during His life people worshiped Him and prayed to Him and He received that without rejecting or rebuking that, but to me at the end of the day, in addition, you could add other New Testament Scriptures as well as Old Testament promises and prophecies. Some of which we have visited briefly that all point to the divinity of Jesus Christ. But ultimately let's just allow Jesus to speak for Himself. I don't know about you, if I wanna get to know somebody the easiest thing is to talk to them. If I talked to their critics I probably won't realize ultimately who they truly are. If I speak to those that don't know them personally I'm not gonna get much real, insightful information. But if I can talk to the people who know them the best and speak to them or hear from them, then I know who I'm dealing with. John who writes this is Jesus' best friend. He's the youngest of the 12 disciples. "He is the one whom Jesus loved." It's like big brother, little brother. John was a devout Jewish man, he was there for all of the teaching and miracles and deliverances of the life of Jesus, he was an eyewitness. He tells us that in 1 John, he says "I've seen these things with my eyes. "I've heard these things with my hands. "And this is a Jesus that I've actually put my arms around "and gave a hug to my God who happens to be my friend." It just goes to show, Jesus wants a relationship with you where he's your God and your friend. He's your God and your friend. So John being a devout Jew wouldn't just change his view of God. And he's telling us, by writing down the account of His observation as an eye witness to the communication of Jesus, he quotes Jesus Jesus says, "I and the father are one." Again I told you in an earlier lecture one of the greatest declarations among God's people was that He was one. In Deuteronomy 6:4, three times a day. They would articulate something called the Shema. "Hear oh Israel, the Lord our God, He is one." Foundational to their belief. As they're surrounded with false demon gods and religions. And spiritualities that there is only one God. I and the father are one. There's one God and here he is speaking of the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit is inspiring this to be written. They're working together, the Holy Spirit doesn't

draw attention to Himself because the Holy Spirit's ministry is to reveal to us Jesus. And then Jesus comes to reveal to us the Father "I and the Father are one." Again they picked up stones to stone, Him. But Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many "great miracles from the Father "for which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these, "but for blasphemy because you a mere man," what? "Claim to be God." New York Judges Gaynor said, "It is plain "from each of the gospel narratives "that the alleged crime "for which Jesus was tried and convicted was blasphemy." A judge looked at it and said, "Where He got into trouble "is in saying He was God, "that was really the source "of all of the opposition and persecution "and ultimately the execution." You need to know that Jesus was not hated because of His works, but because of His words He fed hungry people, they didn't crucify Him for that. He embraced the marginalized poor and the outcast and they didn't crucify Him for that. Jesus didn't get in trouble for most of His good deeds but He got in trouble for declaring Himself to be the good news. What this teaches us is that it is sometimes easier to do Christian things than to speak of Christ. And you need to know this as well, there is no other major founder of any religion in the history of the world in which the founder declares themselves to be God. Jesus is the only founder of any major world religion who declares Himself to be God. "God standing on the earth, "God entering into human history, "God occupying a human body." And let me just submit this to you. This is true or false Right, this is such an unprecedented, unequalled, unbelievable claim that it's true or false. And the decision you make about Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make. I you believe that He is God, then I'll tell you in the next lecture, all the benefits that come to you if you do not believe that He is God then you have no access to God or His grace. We believe Jesus is God because Jesus said He was God. And just tangentially they did kill Him and what happened? Came back three days later we'll get there in a few lectures and was like, "I told you so," so you know, death couldn't hold Him. So is Jesus fully God? Yes or no, yes. Is Jesus fully human or fully man. See, as we get into this there are two ways that people error, I'll explain this in a moment. But Jesus is fully man and fully God. Some will emphasize His deity, divinity. Others will emphasize His humanity. We looked at Jesus is fully God is Jesus fully human. Is He really a full blown human being like the rest of us? 1 John 4:2,3 "By this you know, the Spirit of God, "every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ "has come in the flesh is from God, "and every Spirit that is not confessed, "Jesus is not from God." This is the spirit of the antichrist, whatever is against Christ, which you heard was coming and is now in the world today." That's demonic and it's fighting against the declaration of the divinity of Jesus Christ. And what are you saying is this? There are lots of unholy spirits at work in the world. How do we know the difference between the unholy spirits and the Holy Spirit? While the Holy Spirit tells us that Jesus is God in a human body, anyone or anything that would digress or disagree is demonic. It's a strong statement. And it was made in a day when most people thought that the physical body was a bad thing to be rejected. And a board, Greek faking thought that you were two parts body and soul, that your soul was good, your body was bad and that your body needed to ultimately die so that your soul soul could be unleashed and you could go into your perfect state. Their whole goal was to get out of the body. The thought that God came into a body. Well, that was actually not only something that they didn't believe, that's something they didn't want. And here comes Jesus into the Roman Empire, into the heart of those who were reared in Greek philosophy and ideology. And He is God in the flesh, that's incarna, incarnation. How about this one? 1 Timothy 2:5, "Why did you do this?" For there is

how many gods? One God and there is how many mediators? One mediator. Some of you like, "Well, there's one God "but there's lots of paths to God." No, Jesus says I am the way the truth and the life singular and exclusive John 14:6, "No one gets to the father but by me." There's one God, there's one mediator between God in men, who? The man Christ Jesus. So we are human beings fallen, sinful, rebellious on the earth. God is wholly other perfect supernatural in the unseen realm. Every religion will say, "Here's how you go up." The Bible says, "Here's how God came down." And Jesus is the perfect mediator that we use this language when there's conflict in our own day of let's say a couple's having a crisis, they sit down with a pastor or a mediator or a counselor. The purpose of that person's participation is to represent both sides fairly and equally to work out a relational resolution. Well here's God, here's us. Who's gonna negotiate this deal? Who's gonna resolve this conflict? Who's gonna restore this relationship? We're gonna need somebody, who's fully God and fully man and has the ability to reconcile men and God. His name is Jesus, His name is Jesus. Jesus in addition, He had a human name this are just evidences and examples of His humanity. His name, Jesus means Yahweh saves, Christ means the one anointed with the Holy Spirit. Jesus had a human genealogy, right? He had a mom and He came from a family. He had brothers and sisters, He had a mom and a dad. It says that He had human needs, there are times He was hungry and He ate. He was tired and He slept, that He was tired and He napped. That's one of my favorite things about Jesus. Jesus took a nap, be like Jesus take a nap. I feel pretty good tonight 'cause I took a nap, right? Jesus took a nap. When He was on the earth in His humanity, He got hungry, He got tired, He got thirsty, He got sick. He experienced the fullness of humanity. He also had emotions. 60 times in the four gospels Jesus emotions are mentioned. He had a full emotional life. Number one, emotional attribute of Jesus is compassion. It's mentioned more than any other of His emotions. He got compassion, Jesus came down and looked at us. He didn't look down on us, He came down to us and he looked on us and He had compassion. You people need help, you people need grace, you people need mercy, you people need me, that's Jesus, compassion. You just need to know whatever you're going through, Jesus has compassion for you. Whatever someone else is going through, Jesus shares his compassion with you to share with them. Some of you come from theological traditions whereby the emotional life of the passion of Jesus was not emphasized. Some of you have been taught that that your emotions are dangerous while your whole person is infected and affected by sin. Your will, your mind, your emotions, nothing in you is all together pure but we are supposed to love the Lord, our God, with all our heart. Jesus says that the essence of the teaching of the Bible is to love the Lord, your God with all your heart soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. That's emotional, it's relational. The Church of England's 39 articles and the Westminster confession of faith, both of which are pretty good but they're not perfect, they're not the Bible. Say that God is, "Without body parts or passions." They teach that God has no emotions. So for them, our savior would be more like Spock. Non-emotional, non. Have you ever met these people you've ever met religious people. They're like, they become like their false, erroneous, incomplete view of God. Then they go, "Okay, God is, non-emotional "I'll be non-emotional, "God, because He's not emotional "is not very relational. "Therefore all be not very relational." And meet those people and you're like, "Didn't you read the Bible? "Jesus shows up to tell us what God is like. True or false Jesus is passionate, He's emotional. Do we see Him cry? A couple of times? Do we see Him declare war? He gets angry, He goes to the temple. And He, it says He made a whip. I didn't even know He

could make a whip. He knew how to make a whip. You know how angry you gotta be to make a whip. It takes a while to make a whip and I'm like, "I'm gonna whip this up." No, you gotta make the whip. It's gonna take some time. He's probably like, "Oh, I am gonna whip you, I am." And He stays frustrated long enough to get the whip made. And then he goes Indiana Jones on people, He's passionate, He's emotional. Okay He loves you passionately. He wants to have a relationship with you, that is personal and emotional and passionate. Right, that's who Jesus is. So then the question is, "How could God become a man? "How does this work?" Matthew 1:22,23. "All this, the birth of Jesus took place "to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the Prophet." He quotes Isaiah 7:14. If you just read through the New Testament if you start in the first chapter of each book take a deep breath and start reading. Before you exhale your first breath, you will find either a reference or some sort of quotation or inference to the Old Testament 'cause it's promise and fulfillment. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet quotes, Isaiah seven, "Behold a Virgin shall conceive, there a son. "And they shall call His name Emmanuel "which means what? God with us." Oh, I won't sing because I love you. In my resurrected state, I will have an awesome voice. I'll be able to dunk and my bangs will return in full glory. But until that time I'm dealing with my limitation. So I won't sing for you, but there is a Christmas song. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, ransom captive Israel. Right in the holiday season, in the grocery store and in the mall. They're singing that is echoing about this Emmanuel, His name is Jesus. What's amazing is most people have not invited Him to be God with them. Jesus comes all the way down to the earth says, "I wanna be with you. "Do you wanna be with me?" A relationship takes two people agreeing that they wanna have this relationship. And Jesus has done all of the work to close all of the distance, to overcome all of the obstacles to extend a hand of friendship because he is God with us. What's amazing about this, we'll get into this when we get into the next lecture on the cross. God looked down at the world and it was a bloody mess of sin and folly and death and demonic and destruction and rebellion. And Jesus decided I'm going into that. I'm gonna leave glory, I'm gonna come in humility. I'm gonna go from a throne to a feeding trough. I'm gonna go from angels, singing to people jeering. I'm gonna go from the kingdom of God living in the palace to a poor likely teenage, peasant couple in a dumpy, rural hick town. Why did Jesus do all of that? Not because we're good, but because He's good. When you hear this, some people say, "Well, yeah look how valuable we are." No, look at how good God is Right, this is the difference some will say between cat theology and dog theology. Have I shared this with you? There are basically two kinds of theology, dog theology, cat theology. If you have a cat and you feed the cat and you love the cat, you pet the cat and you care for the cat. The cat thinks I'm an amazing cat. If you have a dog and you feed the dog you pet the dog, you love the dog. You take care of the dog, the dog thinks I have an amazing master, right? We're supposed to have dog theology not cat theology, that's my point. My point is too that all dogs go to heaven but I don't think there's a shot for cats. Nonetheless, That'll be in the final lecture. But when we look at all that Jesus went to we can't look and say, "Look how valuable we are." We have to look and say, "How wonderful He is." His humility should encourage our humility. Philippians two explains it in this way. Christ Jesus, who though He was in the form of God. Jesus is God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped or held onto. How many of you, the biggest problems and pains in your life have been coming to that resolution that you need to stop holding this in your hand. You need to let it go, you're fighting for the job, you're fighting for the respect, you're fighting

for the dog. You're fighting, you're like, "This is what I deserve. "This is my place. "I have climbed the corporate ladder. "I am the head of household. "I make good money, I've got a degree. "I got good grades, this is what I did." And what he says is, "Jesus had it all and gave it all up. "That He took his hand, filled with glory and he emptied it. "And he came into history humbly." This is one of the ways I know that we didn't write the Bible, God did. No one could have conceived of a God of unprecedented, unparalleled humility. This is Jesus, He gave up everything to come down and have nothing. He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped fought for. This is my place, this is my power, this is my prestige, this is my prominence. This is my position. But He emptied Himself. It's hard for God to fill you when you're still full. When you empty yourself, the spirit of God can fill you. Some of us are full of ourselves, we don't leave much room for the Spirit. And we wonder why we're not spirit-filled. It's because we're already filled with self and we need to be emptied out. Jesus calls this, denying yourself and picking up your cross, things of that sort in kind. He emptied himself, taking the form of a what? A servant. In that day this is the lowest of the low. This is, you go to a Hindu culture today this would be like the untouchable class, right? That there are levels of value for human life and the servant or the slave there at the bottom. So let's say, you'd come into somebody's home. And you had dung all over your feet from walking on the Roman road where the animals tread. And you're like, "I need my feet clean, who did it?" The servant, the lowest one. The disciples come together for a dinner. All their feet are dirty they're all too proud to wash somebody else's feet. What does Jesus do? He gets down, he gets a towel, he gets some water and God starts washing the dung ridden feet of His foolish disciples. Our Jesus serves. Now, let me say this in pride some of you will struggle to allow Jesus to serve you. "I don't, Jesus You know, I got this all figure it out." Jesus is like, "No actually you need me." Jesus humility allowed Him to serve. If you will walk in humility, two things will happen. You will serve others and you will allow others to serve you. How many of you struggle with one of these two? You're like, "I like people serving me. "I'm very good at being served. "I'm sort of varsity on people doing nice stuff for me." How many of you you're like, no. I take care of you, you don't take care of me. I get you a present, you don't get me a present. I do you a favor, you don't do me a favor. To be like Jesus means we need to serve and be served to serve and to be served. Taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men and being found in human form, He what? He humbled Himself. Augustan says, "Christ added to Himself, which he was not. "He did not lose what He was." What He is saying is this Jesus is eternally fully, totally and completely God with all of the divine attributes. And when He into human history He added to His divinity humanity. So it's not Jesus minus it's Jesus plus. It's Jesus divinity plus Jesus humanity. Now what this means is that Jesus retained all of His divine attributes but He chose not to constantly avail Himself to their use. Part of the thing with Jesus in His humbled humanity we look at Him and we ask. God is everywhere, how come if Jesus wants to go from one place to another He needs to travel. God is all knowing, why does Jesus not know the hour or the day of His second coming? God is unprecedented in His power. How could they possibly overwhelm Jesus? These are the questions. Did He cease to be God? Did He lose His divinity? No, He added to his divinity humanity. He retained all of His divine attributes but he chose not to avail Himself to their constant use. I'll give you an example. So you can have something and choose not to use it. So for example, I can see, but if I close my eyes or blindfold my eyes, guess what? I have chosen not to use sight. So if I want to find something, I need to use other senses. Similarly, Jesus

retained all of His divine attributes but He did not access them continually because He wasn't cheating. When he was tempted, guess what? He was tempted. When he was hungry, guess what? He was hungry. When he was dying, guess what? He was dying. He was dying, that Jesus did however, access his divine attributes on two occasions. Number one, to reveal God. He tells the storm cease and the storm ceases. And the people present are like, "Who is this?" Well, it's the same voice the creation heard when He spoke it into existence. So when it told Him to stop the storm, it obeyed Him. It was to reveal Himself as God. On another occasion in Mark two, there's a guy who is paralyzed, he's an invalid. And Jesus shows up and says, "Son, your sins are forgiven." And they ask the question, "Who can forgive sins "but God alone?" The answer is no one, Psalms 51:5, "Against you only Lord God by sinned." Jesus retained His divine attributes. He did not continually avail Himself to their use. He would use them to reveal God and also to redeem others. But He never used His divine attributes while on the earth to benefit Himself or to make His life any easier than yours. Does that make sense? Same massive theological concept, this means that Jesus chose to live as you live. He had to learn mature, suffer, endure temptation, grieve and forgive. And what this means is that while on the earth Jesus is not like Clark Kent, Clark Kent looks like a what? Mild-mannered report but really it's gonna look, you got unitard on with a Cape underneath and a red S on his chest, he's really Superman. Jesus isn't like that, He's not pretending to be a poor marginalized humble Galilean peasant but he's really God and not suffering or enduring, it's not how He worked. Some christian theologians came together over 100 of them at something called the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451. And their debate was "Okay, Jesus is God, Jesus is man. "Everybody wants to say yes or no." The Bible seems to say yes and yes how do we articulate this? They came up with something called the Hypostatic Union, right? We're part of a family of faith across multiple generations and nations. And when the family convened, they came up with something that theologians now refer to as the Hypostatic Union. And that is that Jesus is one person with two natures fully man, fully God. Heresies and false teachings since that time, either will overemphasize the divinity of Jesus or the humanity of Jesus. So my fundamentalist friends, they have a very hard time imagining that Jesus went to the bathroom. You even say that, and they're like, "That's irreverent." No, that's humanity. Not trying to be dishonorable or disrespectful but if he is fully man and he ate I hope, flush show. I hope right. I hope, yes He was fully human. And others will emphasize not only His divinity but His humanity. So those who are liberals will say Jesus was a great man. Jesus was a great example, Jesus is like Martin Luther King Jr. And Ab Lincoln. And he's the example, no He's also God He's also God. The first films made about Jesus all had Him like an apparition. He's glowing, many of the first films, I think nine of the first 10 they had the word passion in the title, they were about Jesus. And those early movies showed Jesus. It's like, He lived next to a nuclear plant. He's just radiating like a night light and He's sort of hovering around more like some sort of ghost. And for many people they thought, "Okay boy "that that's what Jesus was like," no. The Bible says in Isaiah, "That he had no beauty "or majesty in Him that we should be attracted to Him." He looked very human, very normal. That's why everybody didn't automatically believed that He was God, He came in humility. So let me wrap this up, I'm overtime. You're welcome, we're talking about Jesus. So that's a good reason, but here's the last question. How could God become a man? I'll read this and we'll move on. Well, here's why Hebrews 2:17,18. "He had to be made like His brothers in every respect "so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest "in the service of God to make propitiation."

That would appear four times. We'll get into it the next lecture, it's about his death on the cross for your sins, for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered when tempted He is able to help those who are being tempted. What He's saying is, "Why did Jesus come down and limit Himself?" He came down to be with you and to be with me and to be with us. So when your body is failing, you can go to Jesus and say, "Physically I'm suffering. And Jesus will say, "I know exactly what that's like. "Jesus I'm broke." Jesus will be able to say to you, "I was poor." "But Jesus my friends betrayed me, abandoned me." Jesus will say, "I know exactly what you're going through." He is merciful and faithful, He has been where you are and He wants to take you where He is and that's amazing. So if Jesus on the earth lived the perfect life but didn't do it out of His divinity. He remained God, but He did not avail Himself to the use continually of His divine attributes. Then how did Jesus live a perfect, powerful human life. That's the last question by the power of the Holy Spirit, by the power of the Holy Spirit. What is the secret to Jesus' success? He is the most famous person in the history of the world. More songs sung to Him, more paintings painted of Him. More books written regarding Him, more lives dedicated to Him, than anyone who's lived in the history of the world. And when somebody amazing does something amazing we try to figure out what was the secret of their success? Luke 3:21,22 when Jesus had been baptized and was praying the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form, like a dove. Here's the Old Trinity and the voice came from heaven. "This is the Father, you are my beloved Son "with whom I am well-pleased." For the first 90% of His life, Jesus worked a job as a carpenter with his dad. This goes to show, if you go to work tomorrow you're like Jesus, right? You're like Jesus, Jesus was being faithful to the calling on His life as a carpenter and as a minister. All of life is ministry, if it's under the Lord. Jesus then becomes a public figure. And here it is at the baptism that John baptizes Him in the Jordan river and everyone is present in the Holy Spirit descends on Him. What does that tell you? He is gonna live by that power. He is going to live by that power. It says in Luke four, then that Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit. Let me just summarize this quick, I wrote a whole book called spirit-filled Jesus. But basically the thought is this. That almost all of the early church creeds they say that he was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered and died under Pontius Pilate. They go from his birth to His death and they tell us nothing about His life. And we need to know about his life because what? We're still alive and until we're dead and in the presence of God we need to know how to live in the presence of God. How did Jesus live His life? By the person, the presence the power of the Holy Spirit. I'll just summarize it briefly and then we'll do Q&A. Elizabeth and Zachariah, his aunt and uncle. It says in Luke's gospel, "They were filled with the Holy Spirit." It says that "John, the baptizer, His cousin "was filled with the Holy Spirit, from his mother's womb "a tremendous statement for human life." And Mary's conception it was told, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you "and He will allow you to birth Jesus, "Christ means anointed of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 61:1,2 "The spirit of the Lord "is upon me." When Jesus starts His public ministry. That's the first Bible verse that He reads. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." Furthermore, it says in Luke's gospel, "Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit, "led by the Spirit in the power of the Spirit, "rejoiced in the Spirit." What does it mean to be Spirit-filled? It means to be like, Jesus, you can't be like Jesus without the person, the presence, the power of the Holy Spirit. The same power that empowered the life of Jesus is available to you so that you can live by His power. When he needed help, He went to the helper. When you need help, you need to go to the helper too. Jesus shows us how to live a victorious, powerful, passionate life by being

filled with the Holy Spirit and Jesus life is exactly what it looks like to live a spirit-filled life. There's lots of debate, be like I don't know what that means, Jesus. You wanna know what a perfectly spirit-filled person looks like? Look to Jesus. And I'll close with this and I do mean that this is my last point. What I mean is this, in two of the four gospels when it's recording the descending of the Holy Spirit on Jesus, two of the four gospels, give this other little caveat and it says, "And the Holy spirit remained or abided on Him or with Him." What does that mean? His whole life. Is by the power and the presence of the person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus never had a second without the Holy Spirit. Let me just tell you this friend, you need the Holy Spirit, every second. Grace and I met, we've been together ever since we do everything together. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are a little bit like that. They're in it together, and the Holy Spirit wants to be in it with you so that you can walk in the character of Christ until you see the face of Christ.