

“When God Came to Earth”

John 1:14-18

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Introduction: In our Scripture this morning, the Apostle John mentions two qualities of Jesus that we need to take very seriously as we interact with people especially different and difficult people.

Text: John 1:14-18

- The word “dwelt” can be translated “tabernacled” or “tent.”
- The Tabernacle was a portable dwelling place of God from the Exodus to conquering the land of Canaan.
- Then John said, “We observed His glory.” The glory of the Lord simply means the presence of God.
- The glory of God “rang a bell” with Jewish minds.

Examples:

1. Before giving the manna, the children of Israel saw the glory of the Lord in a cloud (Exodus 16:10).
2. Before giving the Ten Commandments, the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:16).
3. When the Tabernacle had been erected, the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle ((Exodus 40:34).
4. When Solomon’s Temple was dedicated, the glory of the Lord filled the house (1 Kings 8:11).

5. When Isaiah had his vision, he heard the angelic choir singing that the whole earth is full of God's glory (Isaiah 6:3).
6. Ezekiel in his vision saw the likeness of the glory of the Lord (Ezekiel 1:28).
7. In the Old Testament, the glory of the Lord came at times when God was very near and very close.
8. The glory of the Lord simply means the presence of God.

T.S. I want us to focus on two qualities about Jesus—grace and truth. We see them connected in verses 14 and 17.

1. The Christian life should be a blend and balance of grace and truth.

- The “and” between the two words is more than a common conjunction.
- It blends the two.
- It also balances the two.
- Jesus is full of grace and truth.

Illustration: We see this throughout the earthly life of Jesus. He invited publicans and sinners to Himself. That is grace. He confronted hypocrites and Pharisees. That is truth. But His truth was always with grace. Jesus blended and balanced grace and truth.

Application: How many times have I said from this pulpit that our church is a “Jesus church.” More than Baptist, we are a “Jesus church.” Part of what I mean by that is that we teach and preach the truth found in God's Word, but do so with grace. A church that has grace and truth balanced is a “Jesus church.”

Illustration: The Southern Baptist Convention has been right on truth, but weak on grace. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has been right on grace, but weak on truth.

Application: Stand on truth, but stand with grace.

2. The goal of every Christian should be to be full of grace and truth.

- Jesus is full of grace and truth.
- The Bible says that we are to be conformed to His image (Romans 8:29).
- The Bible says, “When Jesus appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).
- The goal of every Christian should be to be full of grace and truth.

Application: This is Sunday, February 4th. At some point in time, Jesus will return. On His return, the Bible says that we will be like Him which means that we will be full of grace and truth.

Conclusion: Would you say that now you are “full” of grace and truth in your words? Would you say that now you are full of grace and truth in your actions? Would you say that now you are full of grace and truth in your reactions?