

TEACHING GOAL

Show that Jesus becomes real flesh and blood, a true Man by the Virgin Mary.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

- Q. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?
- A. Christ the Son of God, became Man, by taking to Himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her yet without sin.

S.C. 22; L.C. 46-50; W.C. of F. VIII; Savoy 8; Young 47

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: Luke 1:26-38

Support Passages: John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-11; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14, 4:15; I John 1:1-4, 4:1-3; II John

BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:1-20; The birth of Christ.

.MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14, ESV)

APPLICATION

Let us praise God like Mary did, for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. She sang, "My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God, my Savior." It is comforting to know that because Jesus was a real Man and was here with us that He understands and sympathizes with us. He was tried like we are yet without sin.

SUMMARY

This is the first of two lessons on the nature of Christ as true Man and we shall focus our attention on Christ as flesh and blood. Next week we shall study His sinless nature.

As early as the first century a heresy known as "Gnosticism" intruded upon the Church. The Gnostic believed that material things were evil and so he reasoned that since Jesus had no sin He was not actually flesh or material. John is very careful to use the word "flesh" in his epistles and his gospel when referring to the physical nature of Christ because he is concerned that we believe that Jesus was a real man and not just a phantom. We should take particular notice of John's language in this regard in the support passages listed in this lesson. Not only do we read that Jesus ate food but His body of flesh actually became hungry and weak from the lack of it (Matthew 4:2 & 11). Similarly we read that He thirsted on the cross and that His body bled. John speaks of handling Him (I John 1:1) and of Mary's "clinging" (John 20:17) to Him. Without any doubt Jesus was really flesh for His body not only was born, but it did all the things other bodies do such as eating, sleeping, walking, weeping and dying. But what does such information about Christ mean to us?

God has declared that blood must be shed for the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22, Leviticus 17:11) and therefore Christ must shed real blood to effect our pardon for sin. Therefore He must be born a real man. He was born of the Virgin Mary that He might be flesh but His sinless nature derives from God the Father who caused Mary to conceive. The sinless nature of Christ did not come from Mary for she was not immaculate in the sense that she was without sin. She was, in fact, just as we are, a sinner in need of conversion and justification. That Christ is flesh means that He is our blood sacrifice, our Passover.

It is no small comfort to the saints to realize that the Lord Jesus was subjected to the same human context that we live in yet without sin. Our High Priest, Jesus the Righteous, is not indifferent to our problems nor is He indifferent to the effects of sin on His Church. He is, in fact, preparing His Church as a bride for His return. The God of the Deist is cold, indifferent and away on business, but not so the Word made flesh, who tabernacled among us. He, who in the flesh was the public display of all that the Tabernacle represented and performed, is now interceding for His people at God's right hand. Hallelujah! Are you not moved to shouts of praise to your Lord and King, Jesus?

Finally, Christ's fleshly existence fulfilled all the covenant promises to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc. For the promise was of the Seed of Abraham, blessing all the nations. The seed of Adam was to crush the head of the Serpent. This is a promise of a flesh and blood person in whom these great

promises are based. This "Son of Man" (Daniel 7:13-14) to whom is given everlasting dominion, glory and a kingdom of Jew and Gentile alike, the great Beginning and End of all things, was one of us and substituted Himself for us His people, so that they will go to heaven. His people belong to an everlasting kingdom. Do you believe on this Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Have you repented from your sins and do you follow Him? If so then you have the same cause to rejoice as did Mary, saying: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.'" (Luke 1:46-55, ESV)