



In the Name of The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit, One God. AMEN

The Humility of the Incarnation

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

- We must have the mind of Christ if we are to benefit from His death... *Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Rom 8:9*
- If we are to benefit from his death we must bear some resemblance of His life
- What was the Mind of Christ?
 - He was Humble - ... *“for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Mat 11:29)*
- We must walk in the same steps and the same spirit of Jesus who suffered for the truth

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

- Equal with God:
 - *He is the image of the invisible God (Col 1:15)*
 - *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, ... (Heb 1:3)*
 - *“I and My Father are one.” (John 10:30)*
 - The Transfiguration
- Not Robbery:
 - He did not think Himself guilty of any invasion that was not His

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

- Made Himself...:
 - This was a voluntary act. *“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” (John 10:17-18)*
- Taking the form of a servant:
 - Healing
 - Feeding
 - Protecting: the adulteress
 - Washing feet
 - Praying for
- Likeness of men:
 - He took part with the daily lives of the average man:
 - *“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.” (Mat 11:19)*
 - He was circumcised.
 - He went to weddings.
 - He hung out with fishermen.
 - He ate and drank with sinners

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

- He Humbled Himself:
 - What was there to be humble about?
 - Born of a Virgin
 - God announced



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- The Angels praised
 - *“Then the angel said to them, Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:10-14)*
- Star in Heaven
- Wise men bowed and gave expensive presents
- Shepherds praised
 - *Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (Luke 2:17-18)*
- Simeon
 - *“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel. And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.” (Luke 2:29-33)*
- Even the death of the cross:
 - There was nothing more humiliating, cursed and humbling than this type of death. *“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6)*

Who is Jesus?

- Before Birth
- After Birth
 - Emmanuel
 - *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (Matthew 1:23)*
 - Son of the Highest
 - *“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”... And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’ (Luke 1:32)*

Humility of Jesus’ Birth

- Took on flesh
- Infinite God restricted Himself to human body
- Descended from heavenly kingdom to dirty earth
- Born of a woman
- The Creator of the Universe owned nothing:
 - The manger was not His
 - The tomb was not His
 - Nothing in between the cradle to the grave belonged to Him: *“Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, ‘Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’” (Matthew 8:19-20)*
- Born:
 - In a barn
 - In a feeding trough



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- Amongst animals
- In coldest time of year
- To poor parents

SUMMARY

The message of Christmas is the message of love. The child Jesus was born on this very day in a cattle pen and wrapped and laid in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn. We see him today in millions of children who have no place of refuge, who with their mothers and fathers are starving while we are satiated in the luxury of many good things and appear like the rich man in the parable of the rich Lazarus that the Lord Jesus gave us as an example.

The rich man did not show concern for the poor Lazarus who was cast in front of the door of his house and was dying of hunger. Both died and the rich man was taken to hell but the angels carried Lazarus' spirit to the lap of Abraham.

So, all those in need, all the poor and all the needy orphans and poor widows are the little brothers of Jesus. Moreover, they represent the poor child Jesus who did not have a place in the inn so he was lain in the manger of an inn's barn in Bethlehem of Ephrata.

Why don't we yearn to stand on his right side with those who will hear His beautiful voice saying to the: *“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me... Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” (Matthew 25:34-40)*

Fr. Bishoy Kamel

In Egypt the feasts of Christmas, Epiphany and Easter are celebrated at night. The late Fr. Bishoy Kamel used to always go out and distribute food and gifts to the needy in his congregation as soon as he had completed the church service. His wife became used to it, and supported his mission, so that on the nights of feasts, accompanied by his wife or going separate ways, they did as much as they could, and brought back some of the people from out of town to their home the night of the feast, because Fr Bishoy always felt the importance of sharing the meaning of the Lord's feasts.

Mat 20:27 "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave; 28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

1 Th 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

Mat 8:20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."



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Mat 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

Mat 27:30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Mark 14:65 Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

Mat 26:36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Psa 25:9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Mat 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Luke 17:25 "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

Mat 20:26 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave; 28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Luke 22:27 "For who [is] greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? [Is] it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

John 13:14 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

Romans 15:2 Let each of us please [his] neighbor for [his] good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

1 Cor 1:28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

2 Cor 10:1 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to [the] [point] [of] death, even the death of the cross.

Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.3 For consider Him who endured



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such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed [Himself] to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1Pet 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

1John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.