

Volume 1, Sermon 23

Note: If you arrived here by Internet search, know that this series of sermons is about "The Whole Christ". Click on the up-left Logo to see the SiteMap where, among other things, this particular series began and continues. I pray you will be blessed as I am.

Luke 8:25 What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

"Mary, Did You Know?"

This beautiful Christmas song ascribes to Mary's baby that "one day he will walk on water", he will "save our sons and daughters", "has come to make us new" and "will deliver us", "give sight to the blind", and "calmed a storm". The beauty of the music and lyrics reassured us at this wonderful season of the year.

Several Sundays before Christmas with the congregation I sang the song and my love of our Lord brought me to tears. It is truly "a worshipful" song for "a worshipful" time. The song's lyrical subjects are familiar to all Christians familiar with their Bibles.

Yet, wrapped in singing, most of us miss **the Surpassing Truth** told by the song writers ... the babe "had already walked where angels trod" and Mary kissing the little baby "has kissed the face of God". Indeed, the babe "is Lord of all creation" ... "will one day rule the nations" ... "was Heaven's perfect Lamb (lamb slain from the foundation of the world)" and in fact is "... the Great I Am"!

I first heard the song years ago and it immediately captivated me; and then a few years later at Christmas, my *ear* began to *see the significance of the words*.

With the song's latter significant words in our minds, we now join Jesus on his final journey to Jerusalem accompanied by the Twelve, by many other disciples, and by the following throngs as they work their way from the region of Galilee. I am going to underline Bible text that shows how astounded are the individuals and the crowds at the Messiah's actions and words. In this, then, we allow the Apostle Luke to share with us the walking, breathing *Great I Am*.

Luke

8:22-24 Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. ...

... Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. 8:25 And (so) he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man ("of man" is not in the text) is this! for he commandeth (i.e. 'arranges') even the winds and water, and they obey him ("him" is not in the text).

This text essentially is '**What manner or kind is this that he arranges** (i.e. as does the God of Heaven) **even winds and water and they obey!** The disciples are more astounded by the horrific storm's obedience than by Jesus himself. They have been continually amazed by their Lord Jesus, but here they have seen the *God of Heaven in action* ... so much so that their previous knowledge of Jesus as the Messiah has just been supplanted by the instant knowledge that *he (He) is in fact the Lord God of Creation* ... and not yet realizing *he (He) is and has been the 'lamb slain from the foundation of the world'*.

Note that in them is '**faith**', and is very much '**your faith**'. (The Apostle James writes that if '**faith**' is in the *inactive mode* (thus unobservable) then '**faith**' is not proved to be '*there*'.) Every true Christian has had the '**faith**' of heaven (Biblical '**faith**') installed in him or her. This '**faith**' ... if allowed to function properly ... will cause the person '**to believe**' instantly what God is saying or doing ... and please know that understanding may or may not follow. My

large free book God's Hook is almost entirely made of Bible stories written to emphasize the **'faith'** that is going on between God and the person(s).

In John 1, the Gospel plainly proclaims to all Bible readers through the ages just *who and what and how astounding* is Christ Jesus!

Today I heard a teaching on TV that Jesus was indeed "God" ... but that in "the flesh" he also "was humanity". Many texts exist in the New Testament about Christ having come "in the flesh". Even so, if you have a Greek text, or as I have with Steven's Greek Number System, you will see that the translators added the word "the" and that in these original texts the word "flesh" stands alone.

This TV teacher has been influenced by long standing tradition that has Jesus as "a man, even though sinless". An example of such an error is in 1 Timothy 3:16 '**... great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in *the* flesh, justified in *the* Spirit'**, where '*the*' was added and should not have been joined with '**flesh**' or joined with '**Spirit**'.

Yes, Christ Jesus had '**flesh**', *made in heaven* (i.e. not of earth). Then at the Father's appropriate time the Holy Spirit *placed It in the womb* of Mary ... and upon birth *he (It)* emerged in the *form* of human flesh ... appearing human to all. Thus, we see that *It* was heaven-made '**flesh**' that was tortured. It was heaven-made '**blood**' that became spilled ... separating *It* from any earthly blood, whether human or animal.

As in John 1, *It* was God in His Son who went through all of *It* for you, for me, and for the sins of the world. As a great hymn says, "There is power in the blood" ... and *not in any way, shape, or form was It human blood*.

The Theme of these Sermons (taken together about *The Whole Christ*) is 1) Christ abiding in heaven as the *Lamb to be Slain*, and 2) Christ abiding on earth as the *Lamb that was Slain*, and 3) Christ Jesus again abiding in heaven *having been Slain and Resurrected* ... was and always has been and always will be *the Same Son of God*.

On earth Christ Jesus walked in *human form*, but was *never human* (i.e. of the earth) ... *always of heaven*.

He who at the time '**calmed**' (i.e. '*arranged*') the raging storm was, in fact, of heaven, and so the disciples exclaimed '**What manner of kind is this** (what is happening)!' Ah, but to be so amazed they had no excuse, for Jesus told them their '**faith**' had been sufficient even for this very occasion.

But let us proceed as the amazing Christ says and does amazing things -

9:43-45 And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered...

... every one (of them) at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples, ...

... Let these *sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men*. But they understood not (because they '*faithed*' not) **this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared** (because they '*faithed*' not) **to ask him of that saying**.

Why is it through the years, when I have read and studied the Scriptures, that so very much is '**hid**' from me until such a time when the Lord decides to open a passage ... yet only as he sees fit to do because the same passage and so many other passages once again must be *uncovered*.

Long ago I found a precious secret: So many times, *the Lord in feeding me* also is *protecting me* (his standard way with me) ... sometimes due to my lack ... sometimes due to his purpose. I pray that you understand what I am trying to share of myself.

9:46-48 Then (amid their distractions) **there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him, And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you (disciples) **all, the same shall be great**.**

Is this not also an amazing '**saying**'? Surely through the ages the whole Church has missed this '**saying**' ... for they/we '*faithed*' it not. Amid our distractions among ourselves, I suggest that we have turned this '**saying**' upside down, as we set up the greatest (in our eyes) among us as our leaders.

Differing groups have differing concepts of what their/our leaders should be; yet, in some fashion, such leaders must be the best or most outstanding among us. Indeed, would we ever follow **the least** among us?

Therefore, perhaps we are *not real* disciples ... may the Lord *inspire in us to follow a 'least-disciple'*.

And how did Jesus '**perceive**' their thoughts, by mental telepathy? I suggest at the time that *he was God*.

9:49 And John answered (i.e. 'responded') (amid more distractions) **and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us.**

How quickly even the Twelve had forgotten what they had witnessed of the horrific storm's obedience. John now wishes to change the subject to show how very jealous he and the others are for their Master.

9:50 And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.

Another amazing '**saying**'! Oh how much we Christians do label people and groups into categories as "against Christ" simply because they are not "with us"! Yes, and we do similarly to Christian groups which we think have strayed "too much from true doctrines". We even do similarly among those in our own group that "get a little carried away" about something "not all that important".

9:51 And (so) it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly (i.e. '*no turning one way or the other*') **set** (i.e. '*fixed*') **his face to go to Jerusalem,**

Christ has been working his way from the region known as Galilee toward Jerusalem. Now he is in the final weeks of this particular visit on earth.

The word '**face**' actually means *the whole front of a person*, not just what we call "the face". Furthermore, it includes the *countenance* and/or *appearance* ... in other words, the person's true and full *presence*.

Understanding that Christ is the Great I Am, we can see that from before the Beginning of the World he had received his assignment as *the very Face of God in all things* ... both in heaven and on earth ... representing and working the works of the Father.

In the song, then, "Mary kissing the babe's face was kissing the face of God" shows that the song writers had seen what so many of us have yet to see; and with inspiration and beauty they brought it to us.

Also note the amazing phrase '**be received up**' (not "taken up"). Jesus Christ the Son of God will be *going up within himself* where wonderfully he will be '**received up**' by the Father and all heaven. He shall be '**received**' home again!

John 10:17,18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh 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 commandment have I received of my Father.

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

1Peter 3:18-20,22 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. Who (Christ) is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

From the time Jesus the Christ dismissed his spirit from his body ... until the time in spirit he returned to his body (thus rising from the grave) ... during that time, he was busy about the Father's business.

Our Lord *was not dead in the grave*. Our Messiah *has never been dead!*

9:52,53 And (he) sent messengers (other disciples than the Twelve) before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him (a place for the night). And they (people of the town) did not receive him, because his face (i.e. 'countenance, demeanor') was as though he would go to Jerusalem.

The people of that Samaritan town had their own concept of what the Messiah must surely be like, and Jesus' 'face' (even with his miracles, etc.) did not meet their expectations (similar to Israel's leadership in Jerusalem). To their minds, Jesus was not worthy to be 'received' by them and so they put their doubts into action.

9:54-56 And when his disciples James and John saw (i.e. 'perceived, realized') this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of (see also 9:49,50). For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

Even the Twelve as yet did not 'know' of what they were *in Jesus*. That is, they did not 'see, ascertain, appreciate, comprehend, discern, fathom, grasp' what they were *in the Messiah*. As yet they did not even 'perceive' themselves as *within* their own Master.

It is Jesus' amazing pronouncement which rings down through the ages *onto each child of Almighty God*. It tells us that *by my and your thinking and actions and words, etc.*, we imply to the world and to each other that we 'know not what manner of spirit we are'. May each of us yield to our Lord to be continually reminded of it. For me, the primary place to hear of it is in the Holy Scriptures.

9:57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

Again, the word 'certain', as in previous verses, refers to individuals among the crowds that were with Jesus on his way toward Jerusalem.

9:58-62 And (forewarning him) Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. ...

... And he (Jesus) said unto another, Follow me. But he (the man) said, Lord, suffer me first (i.e. 'at my beginning of this') to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let (i.e., 'send forth') the dead (go) bury their dead: but go (i.e. 'depart from here') thou and preach the kingdom of God. ...

... And another (of the same mindset) also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first (i.e. 'at my beginning of this') go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

I have heard, too often in preaching and teaching, that Jesus rejected these men as disciples. Ah, but yet, what truly desiring person do you know with earthly concerns when he or she nevertheless is told by Jesus 'to go' would not have been thrilled to have received such a 'command' (the very kinds of commands that Jesus gave to the Twelve).

This, then, raises a question regarding preachers, teachers, missionaries, etc. When having received a command 'to go', the Church then encourages them to *get training and get family things settled before 'departing from here'*.

I know someone who, with family agreeing and in tow, immediately as possible left a good job and all else to 'depart from here' to enter something for which he was not trained nor had ever thought he would do, which had no *promised* funds except what the Lord would do and/or provide. As far as I know, he and family never looked back and continues satisfied in the Lord.

Despite their concerns, the men in these verses became *chosen*, and thus they became plugged into all that would soon take place ... and plugged into the beginnings of Christianity. Many of them would work victoriously. Many of them would be imprisoned. Many of them would be martyred.

Indeed, by the Spirit, our Messiah was gathering his troops to walk and work in the world after

his departure.

10:22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth (i.e. 'see, ascertain, appreciate, comprehend, discern, fathom, grasp') **who the Son is, but the Father** (only); **and** (also) **who the Father is, but** (i.e. 'except') **the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him** (i.e. 'take off the cover') (and the word 'him' is not in the original text).

The men and women chosen, appointed, or commanded in all the above verses *by means of Christ* very soon would come to *know* the Father.

1) All things are delivered to Christ Jesus.

2) While walking this earth, *no* man will ever *know* ('see, ascertain, appreciate, comprehend, discern, fathom, grasp') Christ Jesus because ...

3) The Son is answerable to, and connected to, the Father only. Furthermore, he has paid the price for the Father to gather in a great many children. The Son, then, has put aside the possibility that *the children know him* (Heaven's Prince) to make it *possible* for them *to know the Father*.

4) It is the Father whom the Son wishes to '**reveal**' (i.e. 'uncover').

'**But**' also the Son *has authority to 'uncover' the Father to whom the Son wishes ...* and he wishes to do so unto those individuals that fulfill the Son's *specific commands*.

Thus, we see such a '*commanded*' person (like the Apostle Paul) saying '**Abba Father**'. Though Jesus spoke to (i.e. '*commanded*') Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul only came to '**know**' (i.e. 'see, ascertain, appreciate, comprehend, discern, fathom, grasp') the Father even to the point that Paul, in the spirit, was taken up to view heaven ... of which he was forbidden to describe or retell what he had seen.

The popular idea or concept *that a Christian can consider his situation and decide "what Jesus would do"* is totally foreign to Scripture and should be totally foreign to the minds of every child of God. How very sad we are when confused amid our little super spiritualities.

No one '**knows**' Jesus Christ the Son, and few '**know**' the Father.

Even so, many of us should *know* his or her *salvation in Christ given by the Father*. A great many certainly do. Thank you Father and Lord Jesus.

10:23 And he turned him(self) unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets (like Isaiah, etc.) and kings (like King David) have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

The Messiah's *work* for the Father *as the Son of God on earth* is drawing near its close.

A great many very special ones *through the ages* could not see *the Son* in his role as *the Christ*.

Thus, it should be no mystery that the Father's children *of ongoing ages* can never see or '**know**' the Christ until his return.

10:25 And, behold, a certain (i.e. having been following along) **lawyer stood up** (confidently), **and tempted** (i.e. '*thoroughly tested*') **him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**

10:26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Dear Reader, truly here *is a complete believer* living and working within and under God's Law to Israel. He has been well tutored by God in the Law and closely has been following Jesus for weeks. He is totally aware of the controversy among all the leadership of Judah about whether Jesus is of God or of Satan. And from his position as a lawyer he has become very impressed with Jesus. And just now he has overheard these *more private* words meant for the Twelve.

Knowing from Israel's history how past saints have longed to witness the arrival of the Messiah and to hear the Messiah's teaching, the lawyer with great confidence stands up (the large crowd is seated) to challenge Jesus.

The challenge could have been one of many impressive technical matters of Law; yet, this challenge is the *Law's very essence* ... '**What shall I do to inherit eternal life?**' Confident that he has his own '**inheritance**' of '**eternal life**' as promised by God in Moses' Law, this lawyer shall

now put Jesus *to the test*. And also he knows that *the essence* of the Law, in fact, incorporates *all that is accomplished by the Father in the Son*. Is Jesus the Son of God?

The man confidently responds to Jesus, **'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.'**

This *essence of God's Law* to Israel has been a controlling factor in the lawyer's life and work, and now by faith it has given him confidence to stand before Jesus' 'face'.

He thinks, "Jesus' question and his own answer should surely settle the controversy raging among Judah's leadership".

Ah, but instead, the lawyer's boldness may have placed him in jeopardy. The lawyer's answer to Jesus is *claimed* (doctrinally) by all the nation of Israel, and his answer has been *witnessed* by this large crowd, yet the lawyer will likely be disbarred from his position, lose his status, and lose its income.

What will his family think? What will his wife do? Will his own children curse him?

10:28 And (so in agreement) he (Jesus) said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

Jesus is crafty: With the two in agreement, the lawyer nonetheless knows that while all Israelites know the *fundamental doctrine of the Law's essence*, only a few of them walk in it. Indeed, the lawyer can recite God's claim, "You honor Me with the lips, but your heart is far from Me". He does not yet realize what Jesus is working in him.

10:29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

Jesus has just drawn in the lawyer to the *very scales of true salvation*. Knowing him to be a *true child of the Father*, Jesus is bringing him into a far more significant work than simply being a "saved lawyer".

Here among the growing number of disciples has been added another of the varied educational levels to work hand in hand with tax collectors, fishermen, politicians, and even kinsmen to Judah's present king.

10:30-35 And Jesus answering (i.e. 'responding') said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came (i.e. 'fairly close') and looked on him, and (also) passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan (i.e. 'a reference that this traveler, as the other two, also was a servant of God'), as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And (so he) went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

10:36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he (the lawyer) said (from his heart with understanding), He that shewed mercy on him Then said Jesus unto him ('commanding' him), **Go, and do thou likewise.**

Considering verses 10:30-36 about the travelers (due to the word '**certain**') it seems Luke is teaching that *already all three men* were "men of God" ("right and just") going about their work. The first two men, in passing on, were *focused very much upon* and *not detracted from their work* "under the Law".

Many churches teach that Jesus condemned and rejected the first two travelers. Yet, I do not see a word of it by Jesus toward the priest or the Levite. It is clear that the two thought they were fulfilling *the Law to be undefiled*. The lawyer, however, understood *the Law's essential intent* and that all of it was to be worked out in faith and in love; thus, amid his agreement with Jesus, the Lord had raised him from one-in-God's Law unto one-in-Christ' Law.

10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village (i.e. 'similar to those

visited over the past weeks'): **and a certain woman** (i.e. 'similar to many others that believed upon Jesus') **named Martha received him into her house.**

On this journey, many women and others had similarly invited Jesus and the Twelve into their homes ... as had occurred earlier for the disciples when sent out in-tuos, etc.

'... **received him into her house**' reminds us that Christ shall soon be 'received' back home again in heaven.

10:39,40 And she had a sister called Mary, which also (as many) sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word (as the lawyer). But Martha (as was the priest and Levite) was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

10:41,42 And Jesus answered (i.e. 'responded') and said (praisingly) unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many (necessary) things:...

... But one thing is needful: and **Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.**

Interesting is it not, how those *most-praised by Jesus* are nonetheless considered by others to be *less useful*.

At this point we shall *zoom through the remaining journey toward Jerusalem* making note of the things that caused the very large and building crowds to gather even more. Imagine yourself as one of the earliest to have joined the crowd: While not understanding much of Jesus' words, you are nonetheless amazed time and again to 'see what the great saints of old longed to see yet could not see'. Dear reader, it is so easy in these Bible chapters to get caught up in the sayings of Jesus and thereby to *miss this wondrous season of miracle after miracle* that proved fully to the massive crowds *that this was their Messiah* ... even while the opposition became more and more desperate to find some way to *rid their holy land* of this Impostor.

Luke

11:14 And he was **casting out a devil**, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and *the people wondered*.

11:15 *But some* of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils.

11:29-30 And when the people were **gathered thick together**, (to all) he began to say, **This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.**

11:53-54 And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, **that they might accuse him.**

12:1,41 In the mean time, when there were **gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another**, he began to say *unto his disciples first of all*, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ... Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

13:11-13,17 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and **immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.** ... And when he had said these things, **all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.**

13:22-24 And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

14:25-27 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

16:14,15 And the Pharisees (spiritual leaders and teachers) also, who were covetous (greedy), heard all these things: and they derided (belittled) him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is (an) abomination in the sight of God.

17:1,5 Then said he unto (all of) the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come (as in the above verse)! And (so) the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith.

17:12-14 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

18:26,28 And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. 18:29,30 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

18:31-34 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. ... For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they (from the scriptures) the things which were spoken.

18:35-37 And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

18:38-41 And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before (i.e. in front) rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

18:42,43 And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith (in steadfast asking) hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

19:28 And when he had thus spoken, he went before (the crowd), ascending up to Jerusalem.

19:45,46 And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer (only): but ye have made it a den of thieves.

19:47,48 And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people (only) sought to destroy him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.

21:1,4 And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this

poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

For the purpose of this Sermon, I leave the rest of the Gospel of Luke to you

A lengthy-joined-together-study of all the Gospels about Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem can reveal beyond a doubt that Christ Jesus for some thirty-three years on earth was, in fact, God ... *within heaven-created flesh ... Israel's promised Messiah*. Some of the people in early chapters of the Gospels fully understood the *fulfilled multiple prophecies* that God (*as an infant*) had arrived to Israel (Emmanuel) ... also that heaven was working amazing things in the land (see the Gospel chapters with *Christ as a babe having come*, and also *John the Baptist's birth*, and later *John the Baptist meeting with Jesus*.) As emphasized in the early chapters of the Gospel of John, also see the earliest chosen disciples as they immediately knew that Jesus was God's Son ... their *Arrived Messiah*.

Here is Nathanael and Jesus together - **John 1: 47-51** **Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!** (and see **Matthew 5:8** *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*) (And) **Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.** (And) **Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. ...** (And) **Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man** (which reminds us of Jacob similarly called and chosen of the Lord God).

In the Gospels we find passages where time after time the disciples and the people were *astounded* at Jesus' *heavenly (other-worldly) nature* (i.e. *the God-ness* of Jesus).

From their Scripture-studies, these early disciples recognized in Jesus their '**Lord**'. (At the end of this Sermon I have included many such passages.)

Above we saw how the '**fame**' of Jesus had only just begun ... when therefore the first questions began challenging him. Yes, the Lord's own people *expected power* in their Messiah (*power from God*). Ah, but, so many of them *simply missed* the fact of the *Father's Spirit and Power* within and upon *the Son*.

When Jesus returned to his own village the people were somewhat familiar with him; yet, many were *not of his sheep* and *unable to 'know his voice'*. Through the ages, this *kind of familiarity* occurred (and blossomed) in the growing and spreading Church. In other words, a belief developed that Jesus was "a man" (i.e. '*human*', "*with similar temptations and trials*") ... and since our Bible states that he was good and sinless and ultimately powerful, then (amid our adoring him) it must be true that he was '**comely**' (i.e. '*beautiful*'). We agonize over him "suffering and dying for us". Therefore, by our salvation as children of God, do we not "understand the Son of God" ... "are we not like him"? Indeed, this question implies "is he not somewhat like us?"

Ah, but Isaiah said differently from what we popularly think -

'Isaiah 53:1 **Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he (Christ) shall grow up before him (God the Father) as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground** (i.e. *shriveled*): **he hath no form nor comeliness** (i.e. '*magnificence, splendor, beauty*'); **and when we shall see him, there is no beauty** (i.e. '*appearance*') **that we should desire** (i.e. '*delight in*') **him.** (Therefore) **He is despised and rejected of men** (i.e. '*individual males*'); **a man** (i.e. '*individual male*') **of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.'**

Scripture claims Jesus to be '**light**' ... but not in physical form ... instead, with the **Holy (Sanctified) Spirit of the Father** in and upon him.

Shriveled in form ('a root out of dry ground') ... nonetheless, he became identified to Israelites by Heaven's Light shining out from him.

For it is only by the '*shriveled*' Shepherd's '**voice**' that his sheep recognize him.

For us, there are many songs and some hymns sung each Sunday praising Jesus the "man". Much of the Church as a whole views him as "the son of Mary" ... while yet missing *the prophetic fact* that the babe *specifically* was '**son of Joseph**' (John 1:45 and Luke 3:23-31) and '**son of David**' (Matthew 1:1) ... *by which he became part of Israel's lineage of David.*

Sixteen times in the Gospels we see *prophetically* that '**Christ**' was known to the people even more as '**son of David**' (Matthew 12:23) than as any other Biblical term or phrase.

The Whole Christ: This set of Sermons (three years of the Lord's leading) directs our focus onto **The Mighty Sonship of Christ Jesus** ... *continually before, during, and after his earthly visit.*

Is he not The Lord God of Creation / The Lamb Slain from the Foundation of the World?

Is he not - **John 1:1-5** **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**

This may be the last Sermon on The Whole Christ. Only the Lord and time will tell. Therefore, I have included these very special and prophetic passages --

Deuteronomy 18:18 **I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.**

18:19 **And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.**

Psalms 132:11 **The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.**

Isaiah 7:14 **Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

9:6 **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

9:7 **Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

40:10 **Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.**

40:11 **He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.**

50:6 **I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.**

50:7 **For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.**

Jeremiah 23:5 **Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.**

23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

33:14 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

33:15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

Ezekiel 37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Zechariah 6:12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

6:13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

I continue digging in the Scriptures, out of which these Sermons developed. As a whole, the Sermons point always emphatically toward the Visitation of Emmanuel '**God with Us**'.

As 2016 turns to 2017 ... my prayer is that the Lord may draw attention unto the brethren of the Greatness of Light and Power that was '*Jesus*' on earth ... the Name Given Forever by an angel sent from heaven ... the Lord Christ of Heaven ... the Christ Jesus of our Bibles ... even as the Twelve exclaimed -

What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Sincerely, Ron