

He Came Down From The Mountain, But Not The Cross (Part 2)

By Tom Wacaster

He Came Down From The Mountain Of Honor To Become A Servant

Prior to His descent to this world of woe, our Lord enjoyed honor and majesty alongside the Father. He basked in heavenly sunshine, and was worshiped by the angels (Heb. 1:6). He enjoyed the “power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing” (Rev. 5:12) deserving of the Godhead. Existing in the “form of God,” He “counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped” (Phil. 2:6). Words cannot be found that can adequately describe the majesty of our Lord prior to that moment when He took upon Himself “the form of a servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:7-8). His descent from that ‘mountain of honor’ was for no other purpose than to be a Servant of God and humanity, and to give His life a ransom for all. “For the Son of man also came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). On one occasion He washed the feet of the disciples thereby teaching them the importance of being a servant (John 13:1-15). He was obedient to the Father in every respect, remaining faithful even unto death.

In the thirty-three years that our Lord sojourned upon this earth, He never once demonstrated a single shred of selfish desire; never seeking to “be served” but seeking rather “to serve.” He never had to turn His back on material things because He never sought them in the first place. On one occasion his disciples encouraged Him to eat, but He said unto them, “I have meat to eat that ye know not. My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to accomplish his work” (John 4:32-34). He then warned all of us, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures

upon the earth, where moth and rust doth consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through and steal” (Matt. 6:19-20). He not only preached that message, but lived that message to its fullest extent. Our Lord never owned any property, never built a house, never lay by in store, never had a passbook savings account, never organized a “garage sale,” and never placed an ounce of importance on what one might possess in this life. When His life was finished and His course completed, the only thing He could call His own was stripped from His sinless body and gambled away at the foot of the cross by the Roman soldiers while their Master and Creator hung on the cross close by. Having no place to lay His head (Luke 9:58), He found His rest in the homes of those who were gracious enough to provide His daily sustenance, and grant Him a place of repose when the day was done. All this, because He was willing to come down from the mountain of honor to become a Servant!

He Came Down From The Mountain of Heaven To Be Our Savior

Prior to His incarnation, Jesus shared in the glories of heaven with the Father. He basked in the glory and essence of deity (2 Cor. 8:9). In the beginning He filled the universe with the stars and planets (John 1:1-3) with the simple sound of His voice. He sustained (and still sustains) all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3). Yet He was willing to give all that up so that He could set before mankind the feast of abundant life. The New Testament rings with the message of salvation: “Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15a). “And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his

name Jesus; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). W.N. Clarke wrote almost a century ago, “The glory of Christianity is salvation.” The great challenge to the church in this century is getting men to realize their need for a Savior. Too many have lost the awareness of this need; too few are inclined to perceive of Him as Savior. One reason for this is the diminished concept of sin in the modern world. Jack Cottrell wrote,

Of course he recognizes that the world is filled with evils, failures, social ills, and conflicts of all kinds; but he just does not want to think of them as sin. This is because sin connotes a wrongdoing for which one is responsible before God, and modern man does not want to see himself in this light. He will take his evil and his failures to sociologists and psychologists, but not to God (Cottrell, 268).

When our “problems” are discussed in social circles they may be described as “disgraceful,” “corrupt,” “prejudicial,” “harmful,” or even “evil,” but never “sinful.” It is obvious that without a sense of sin there can be no real sense of God as our Savior.

Conclusion

Yes, Jesus came down from the mountain of happiness to bear our sorrows. He came down from the mountain of honor to be a Servant. He came down from the mountain of heaven to be our Savior. When the mob cried for the blood of Jesus, they were granted their wicked desires. And while Jesus hung on the cross they taunted the Son of God and challenged Him to “come down from the cross” (Matt. 27:40). He could have; but He refused to do so. Thank God that while Jesus was willing to come down from the mountain, He refused to come down from the cross

Tom Wacaster serves on the faculty of the Memphis School of Preaching

Love Demonstrated

Article Selected

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

God did not just tell us He loved us and then left it there. As the preceding verse states, God demonstrated, revealed, and validated His love for mankind by allowing Jesus to be crucified, thus bearing the sins of all undeserving people. After showing us the greatest act of love, He now commands us to love others. (1 John 4:11). As we comply to the second greatest command, “love your neighbor” (Mark 12:29-31), it becomes so easy to shake the hand or hug the neck of a fellow Christian and say, “I love you.” However, the love that the Lord requires of us is much more than a verbal acknowledgment. The love which God demands is not a love spoken, but a love shown.

Notice how we are to demonstrate love:

- Doing good and showing mercy for our enemies (Luke 6:35-36)
- Giving preference to each other (Romans 12:10)

- Serving one another (Galatians 5:13) · Putting up with each other’s imperfections (Ephesians 4:2)
- Sacrificing ourselves for our family (Ephesians 5:25)
- Being ready to meet urgent needs of others (Titus 3:14)
- Encourage one another to do good works (Hebrews 10:24)
- Being enthusiastic in expressing our love for each other (1 Peter 1:22)
- Showing compassion for each other (1 Peter 3:8)



Upcoming Events

Tonight!—White Elephant gift exchange at the building after evening worship services. Please bring a gift for the exchange and some finger foods.

Dec. 31—New Year’s Eve fellowship at the building @ 7pm. Please bring games and finger foods.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

Reike Bass’ family—the Savoie Marrow family lost two family members very recently.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Scott DeDear, Ken and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson, Sandy Malone.

Midtown will be hosting our Ladies’ Day on Saturday, February 5th, 2022. Our speaker will be the lovely Lakesha Garza from the Adams Street church of Christ. Registration & Breakfast will be from 8:30am-9:15am and lunch will be provided.

Sign up sheets for hosting Youth Devos, preparing communion, and opening & closing the building for 2022 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Food Helpers for the month of December - Team B. There is a list of teams on the bulletin board.

Service Roster

Week of December 19, 2021

Sunday Morning

Announcements..... Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Song Leader Rick Bass

Opening Prayer James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Dan Fielder

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Mike Atkinson
Cup..... Rick Bass
Offering..... Ken Dorries
Assist..... Fred Scherffius
Assist..... Kirk FitzSimmons
Assist..... Leon Morales

Sunday Evening

Announcements..... Kevin Sheeran
Song Leader Jesse Moser

Opening Prayer Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Ron White

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Ken Dorries & Rick Bass

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Ronnie Scherffius
Song Leader Ken Dorries
Devotional Bryant Siegel

Other

Usher..... Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion Randles

Congregational News

Birthdays

Kirk FitzSimmons..... Dec. 20

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of December 12, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....63
A.M. Worship.....73
P.M. Worship.....53
Wednesday Bible Class.....49
Offering week of December 12, 2021.....\$3,656

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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