

## **Love Came Down Know God, Love God**

### **Introduction**

- God came down
- Love came down

### **Love Came Down - God became Flesh**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [14] The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:1,14**

- The Incarnation - The one who had always existed was born as a baby
- The one outside of time stepped into time
- The limitless one confined himself to a human body
- Jesus Clothed himself with humanity
  - A body that can tire, will need sleep, will need food
  - A body that feels cold and pain
- He became one of us so that he could rescue all of us

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **John 3.16,17**

- Overwhelming, sacrificial, life laying down love came down to undeserving selfish, sinful people

### **Responses to God's**

#### **John the Baptist**

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **John 1:29**

They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan---the one you testified about---look, he is baptising, and everyone is going to him." [27] To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. [28] You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' [29] The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. [30] He must become greater; I must become less." **John 3:26-30**

#### **Peter**

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. [69] We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." **John 6:68-69**

#### **Paul**

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. [8] What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **Philippians 3:7-8**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:21**

### **CT Studd**

If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him. **CT Studd**

### **Jonathan Edwards**

"I went on with my eager pursuit after more holiness and conformity to Christ. The heaven I desired was a heaven of holiness." **Jonathan Edwards**

My story at 13 years old - My response to his love

- Walking the fields at Great Walstead, School -
- Tears of gratitude and Joy - He loves me, I love him
- I give you my life, I only want to serve you
- The simple broken words of a 13 year old boy that was overcome by love
- That was more than 30 years ago and I have never regretted that devotion of love
- I desire him more today than ever before - To live for his glory and to lay my life before his feet - "Use me as you will, O lord."

### **Conclusion**

- What's your response to Love coming down?
- Christian What is your response?
- Do you love him above all else?
- Do you find your affections awakened this Christmas time as you reflect on His Love coming down to you?

### Come Be satisfied

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." **John 7:37-38**

- Are you thirsty?
- Where are you drinking? Where are you trying to satisfy your thirst?
- Come to the fountain of living water and drink to your hearts content
- Only he can satisfy your deep ache, thirst and longings

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. **John 6:35**

- Eat and drink from him the living bread

### Save Your life

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. [35] For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for

me and for the gospel will save it. [36] What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? [37] Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **Mark 8:34-37**

- Deny yourself
- Take up your cross
- Follow Christ
- Trying to save your own life, you will lose it - you don't have power to save it
- Lose your life in him and for him and you will save it
- What good is it for someone to gain the whole world and yet forfeit their soul
- Too many Christians want Jesus and...
  - Jesus and their reputation
  - Jesus and their pleasures
  - Jesus and their stuff
  - Jesus and their Self
  - Jesus and their ...
  - It's either Jesus plus nothing or no Jesus at all
  - Jesus is not an addition to you life He is LIFE

Can you say?

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. [26] My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. **Psalms 73:25-26**