

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 11, 2015

This Week's Focus: Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, is the full expression of God's grace and truth.

This Week's Text: John 1:14-18

"All we who believe in Jesus have received an abundant supply of all that our souls need out of the full store that resides in Him for His people. It is from Christ and Christ alone, that all our spiritual wants have been supplied." **J. C. Ryle**

"For what [the incarnation] means is this, among other things: that for whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—He had the honesty and the courage to take His own medicine. Whatever He is doing with His creation, He has kept His own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that He has not exacted from Himself. He has Himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair and death. When He was a man, He played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile." **Dorothy Sayers**

Related Texts: Exodus 32-34; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 4:15-16

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions of this week's sermon?
- Why is the incarnation of such importance? Why is it insufficient to believe that Jesus merely took on the appearance of a human being? What is Gnosticism? How does John's prologue combat the heresy of Gnosticism?

- What does it mean that Jesus is both “truly God and truly man?” Reference Philippians 2:6-8. Why shouldn't we emphasize Jesus' humanity at the expense of his deity? Why shouldn't we emphasize Jesus' deity at the expense of his humanity? How is the reality of the incarnation of Jesus Christ a message of good news and hope? Reference Hebrews 4:15-16.
- Why does John state that Jesus “tabernacled” among us? What was the purpose of the tabernacle in the Old Testament? How does Jesus fulfill the types and shadows of God's communion with His people?
- What Old Testament story would come to mind for John's audience when they read verses 17 and 18? Reference Exodus 32-34. How is the law of Moses an expression of God's grace toward sinful humanity? Why is the law inefficient to save us from our sin? Discuss how Jesus' sacrifice and the new covenant in his shed blood is the “grace upon grace” necessary to save us from our sin.
- Where is God's glory in the Gospel according to John most brilliantly displayed?
- How can we live in a way that practically demonstrates the Gospel and points to Jesus as the full expression of God's grace and truth? Does the sweetness of God's grace toward you produce in you a desire to declare and demonstrate the Gospel to the world?