

121425

“Love Made Visible”

John 1:14-18 (NIV)

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Background

For the last few weeks, during this Advent season, we’ve been looking at John chapter 1, the prologue of John’s Gospel account. And we’ve been looking at the Word, the Logos, this Person, who, in the beginning, was, and was with God, and was God Himself. This Word always existed, he always existed with God, and always existed as God. In the following verses, we saw that the Word was the One through whom everything was created, and that he was life and light. And this light came to the world, and even though many did not recognize him and did not receive him, to those who did receive him, he gave the right to become God’s own children. These are amazing descriptions of who this Word is – and there has been so much for us to wonder at during this Advent season as we meditated on who the Word is, and what his coming means to us.

Today, we turn our attention to John’s following words, as we now move out of the realm of the cosmic and the big picture, and into the realm of the visible, that which can be touched and seen, into the realm of human history.

Sermon Text: *John 1:14-18 (NIV)*

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.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Discussion Questions

Preparation

1. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
2. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
3. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

Sunday Questions:

- 1) What does John mean when he says, “The Word became flesh”?
- 2) The sermon says this moves us from the “cosmic” to the “visible.” What does that mean?

- 3) According to the sermon, what does Jesus reveal about what God is like?
- 4) Why does John emphasize that Jesus is *"full of grace and truth"*?
- 5) How does Jesus go beyond what the Law given through Moses could do?
- 6) Why do many people find it difficult to receive God's love?
- 7) What does the sermon mean by *"incarnational love"*?
- 8) How does Jesus model incarnational love for us?
- 9) The sermon ends by saying that although no one has seen God, people can see Him through love. How?