

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • TV207B

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 1983
By
HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published
MARCH 1ST, 2011

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY
Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

John 1:14

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

I’m speaking today on my favorite subject. I am bringing the message on “THE PERSON AND WORK AND GLORY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.” I will be with you for about 28 ½ minutes. I am going to spend 28 ½ minutes talking about Him.

The apostle Paul said, *“We preach Christ and Him crucified.”* He said, *“God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* And again, to that city of Corinth, he declared; *“I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified.”*

My only disappointment is this, my only disappointment in life is that I am not able to preach the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ as I would like to preach it; I’m just not able, I wish that I could. I wish that God would give me a hearing in this day and let me declare with the liberty and power that I covet, to preach the glory and beauty of the person of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Here is the best news that ear can ever hear and yet so few are interested in it. It is the best news, good news, glad tidings, and yet so few are interested at all. Here is the greatest treasure, the “*unspeakable gift*,” God called it, the “*unspeakable gift*.”

It is such a treasure and of such value that it is called “*unspeakable (unexplainable)*,” “*unspeakable gift of God*,” yet so few value it at all. They see no beauty at all in Him.

Here is the Song of songs, the very glory of God, and the theme of heaven, “*worthy is the lamb*.” The very theme of heaven but it is unknown to most of God’s creation.

Here my friend is hope for the hopeless and here is mercy for the miserable. Here’s grace for the guilty and here is love for the unlovely and yet it means so little to most people and remains a mystery to the majority of this world’s population.

In **John 1:14**, (listen to this verse); I am going to preach from this verse today and stay as close as I can to this one verse of Scripture. If you would like to turn in your Bible and follow with me, it is found in the **1st Chapter of John, verse is 14**. It says; “*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and full of truth.*”

Do you know what my prayer is? My prayer very solemnly and sincerely is this; Lord, give us ears to hear and give us eyes to see and a heart to understand and a tongue to tell this glory of God that is beheld in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am going to take this verse of Scripture and break it down almost word for word and deal with it quite fully in this message today. So, you listen now and follow in your Bible in **John 1: verse 14**:

It says in the first two words; “*the Word was made flesh.*” John opens his Book with the statement, “*in the beginning,*” **verse 1**; do you see it? “*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*”

Now, we are talking about the word “*Word.*” “*The Word was made flesh,*” the Word. Back in **verse 1** John says, “*In the beginning was the Word.*”

Who is this Word (capital W-O-R-D)? Who is this Word? It is our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you understand that? We are not talking about in the beginning was the Bible; we are talking about “*in the beginning*” was a person.

He is called “*the Word of God.*” He is called in the Scripture the “*water of life.*” He is called by some very beautiful but common terms; He is called the “*water of life.*” He is called the “*bread of life.*” All of these things are essential.

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

He is called “*the door, the way, the truth, and the life.*” Here, He is called the “*Word of God;*” He is the “*Word of God.*”

Now, why is He called the Word; why is Jesus Christ called the Word? “*In the beginning was the Word.*” Why didn’t He say, “In the beginning was Jesus Christ?”

Well, He is called “*the Word of God*” because He is the revelation of God. He is the communication of God. He is that prophet who reveals God.

You see my friend; “*the heavens declare the glory of God. The firmament showeth His handiwork.*” You can see the power, might, and the wisdom of God in a whole lot of things.

Conscience reveals unto us the holiness of God. “*The fool has said in his heart there is no God.*” Every man has a conscience (a light) that lights him, “*which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*” There is some knowledge of God that can be seen from nature, from the skies, the heavens, and the earth, and in the things that are made, even our consciences.

But, to know God, God must speak and God speaks with words just as you and I speak with words. Words are vehicles of talk. Words convey unto us thoughts; words convey unto us feelings; words convey unto us purposes.

You can look at a person and say, “I am going to do this.” The only way he knows that you are going to do it is for you to tell him. So, God speaks. That is how God reveals Himself; He speaks and He speaks through Christ. Christ is the Word of God. Do you see what I am saying?

Our Lord said this; “*no man knoweth the Father but the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal Him.*” That is the reason Christ said; “*he that hath seen me hath seen the Father. He that hath heard me hath heard the Father.*”

“*The words that I speak are not my words but they are the words of Him that sent me. The works that I do are not my works but are the works of Him that sent me.*” Christ is not meaning by that, that He and the Father are not one in the same. He is simply saying; when you look at Christ you are looking at God. God is revealed in Christ.

You see, He is the Word of God. Do you understand that? He is the revelation, He is the communication and He is that prophet. The only way anybody can know anything about the thoughts of God, the ways of God, the will of God, the redemption of God, the purpose of God and the plan of God is to hear Jesus Christ because He is the Word of God.

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

You see, you will never know anything about me unless I tell you. If I choose to clam up and never speak another word as long as I live, nobody is going to know what I am thinking and what I am planning or what I have got on my mind, if I never tell them.

I am telling you this; God almighty speaks and He speaks through Christ. That is why it is called the “*Word of God*.”

He says, “*In the beginning*.” Everything starts with God. The Bible starts that way; “*in the beginning God. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God*.” You have there the trinity; we will get into that in a few moments.

“*And the Word was with God and the Word was God*.” Every revelation of God in the Old Testament is an appearance of Christ. “*All things were made by Him* (all things were made through Him, by Him, and for His glory); *without Him was not anything made that was made*.”

We understand, “*the worlds were framed by the Word of God*.” That is in **Hebrews 1**. We understand; by faith we understand that the worlds were made by the Word of God. Now, that is Christ. Look at our verse again:

“*The Word*,” that is God, “*was made flesh*.” Let me show you this fact from the Scriptures. A man said to me just a little while ago, “one of the most difficult things to preach, men do not believe it, and it is impossible to convince anyone that Jesus Christ is God.”

I am not saying that He is a messenger of God, though He is. I am not saying that He is one who comes in the name of God, but He is. I am not saying that He is an ambassador of God, but He is God Himself.

I am going to show you that fact from the Word of God; God became a man. The Scripture says, “*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself*.” Perhaps the strongest verses in the Old Testament are these; “*behold; a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son and thou shalt call His name Immanuel* (God with us).”

In **Isaiah 9:6** it says; “*Unto us a child is born, a Son is given and the government shall be on his shoulders his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace*.”

Now, listen to this in **1 Timothy 3:16**; “*without controversy, (without debate or argument), great is the mystery of Godliness*.” What is the mystery of Godliness? He tells you; “*God was manifest in the flesh*.”

God was manifested; God was revealed. God was displayed in the flesh. I don't know why we find it so difficult for God to become a man. I know it is a great miracle; it is a wonder of wonders.

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

If God can make man of flesh in His own image, why can't God reveal His image in a man of flesh? Why not? Do you see what I am saying; God became a man?

If God chooses to sit on a throne, He will sit on a throne. If God chooses to use the earth as a footstool, He will use the earth as a footstool. If God chooses to inhabit the body of a man, let Him inhabit the body of man; nothing is impossible with God in keeping with His holiness, justice, and truth.

“Great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh.” That is what it says; He was *“seen of the angels, justified in the Spirit, preached to the Gentiles and believed on in the world.”* That is the mystery of godliness; *“God was manifest in the flesh.”* Look at that verse again: *“The Word;”* that is Jesus Christ, *“the Word was made flesh.”*

Behold, here is the great mystery; here is the great miracle of all miracles, incarnation. God Almighty in His eternal purpose to save, God Almighty in His infinite love for sinners, God Almighty in His infinite grace and mercy chose to take upon Himself the flesh of a man.

And He became a man, *“bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. He was numbered with the transgressors.”* He was identified with us. He is not ashamed to call us *“brethren.”* He took upon Himself the very likeness of sinful flesh.”

The great miracle is that God did not *“take upon him the nature of angels.”* He did not take upon Himself the nature of unfallen Adam (before Adam sinned) but God Almighty waited to take upon Himself the nature of man in his corruption (after the fall), in his depravity, man in his utter sinfulness. Although, Christ in Himself had no sin, His humanity was sinless.

Almighty God was identified with us in our humanity. What a miracle; He became flesh. The Word who was with God, was God, and all things were made by Him, the Word, the communication of God Himself *“was made flesh.”* Now watch it; *“He was made flesh.”* God deliberately, the Scripture says in **Galatians 4**; *“but when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law.”*

God prepared that body; God prepared that dwelling place. God prepared that habitation; that was not the product of Adam's seed; it was God that made Him flesh.

Watch the next line; (let's go word by word), *“the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”* The Word here is the Word *“God was made flesh and dwelt (tabernacle) among us.”*

Can you imagine a little; (I know you can't imagine much; I can't either), of the glory of the tabernacle in the wilderness? Right in the center of the encampment of Israel was a tabernacle, a tent. On the outside it looked just like any other tent; it looked like all the rest of the tents.

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

If you had been up in the air on a high mountain looking down on that encampment and you saw all of these tents of skin, goat's skin, badger's skin, you wouldn't have paid a great deal of attention to that tent in the center of the camp with the white fence around it; except the white fence might have caught your eye.

It was badger's skin. It looked just like any other tent. When Jesus Christ came to this earth He looked just like any other man. In fact, those people said; "*why, is this not Joseph's son? Do we know not his mother, his brothers and sisters? Is not this the carpenter?*"

"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" They called Him a "*wine bibber, a gluttonous man, a friend of sinners. There was no beauty about Him that we should desire Him. There was no comeliness. We hid as it were our faces from Him.*"

He looked like any other son of Adam. The difference was on the inside. I will tell you this; when you look at that tabernacle out there in the wilderness with its badger skin cover it would look like any other tent.

When you opened the veil and looked in the very Shechinah glory of God filled that place. God was present there. There was gold, the silver, the white linen, the purity, the beauty. The incense was burning, the seven candlesticks were burning.

There you have the greater glory of God revealed between the cherubim's on the mercy seat, so that a man couldn't even approach there unto without an atonement, without a blood sacrifice, for the very presence and glory of God would have blinded him.

And that is what I am saying about Jesus Christ who tabernacled among us. He looked like any other man but He knew no sin. He had no sin. He was God, perfect love, perfect righteousness, perfect truth, perfect holiness, and everything.

You see; the greater glory of Israel was its tabernacle. The greater glory of the tabernacle was the holy of holies. The greater glory of the holy of holies was the mercy seat for there was the Shechinah glory of God. There God met men and there men met God.

I am telling you this; Jesus of Nazareth, though He looked ordinary and common on the outside, though they despised Him and rejected Him; "*He was a man of sorrows acquainted with grief,*" He is God in human flesh.

If you ever meet God you will meet Him in Christ. If God ever meets you He will meet you in Christ. If God ever deals with you in mercy He will deal with you in mercy on the basis of that man Jesus Christ, that tabernacle. Christ is our tabernacle and in Him God meets men in mercy.

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

My friend; I am telling you the truth. You can walk all the aisles you want to and cry and pray at all the mourner's benches you want. You can be baptized by all the Baptist preacher's and sprinkled by the Methodists and confirmed by the Catholics.

You can take your sacraments and your Lord's Table, communion, do your good works and make your professions and your decisions. I am telling you; God meets men in the tabernacle, at the mercy seat, on the basis of the blood and that is the blood of the Lamb. It is called the "*atonement*."

I'm telling you; it says, "*The Word was made flesh and tabernacled among us.*" That is where you can do business with God. You can do business on God's terms and God's way at God's time through God's name, Jesus Christ. That is so! I have nothing to gain by lying to you. I'm not building any monuments to myself; I am trying to tell you the truth about God. "*The Word was made flesh and He dwelt among us.*"

Fourthly: "*And we beheld His glory.*"

"*We*" think about it, "*we*," what a favored people, what a blessed people. Christ said, "*Blessed are your eyes for they see.*" Blessed are your ears for they hear. Blessed are your hearts; they understand.

Blessed? Oh my friend, have you beheld Him? I'm not talking about what we have read about Him or just heard about Him. I am talking about this, Paul said, "*The glory of God, (the very glory of God) is revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.*" "*He that seeth the Son and believeth on Him hath everlasting life.*"

"*The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*" By God opening our eyes, we beheld. You don't see this by nature. Our Lord said to Peter, "*whom do men say that I am?*" He said, "*They say that you are this, that, and the other.*"

Well, "*Who do you say that I am?*" Peter said, "*You are the Christ.*" ("You are the tabernacle; you are the mercy seat; You are the atonement; You are the altar. You are the high priest; you are the mediator; and you are all things'"). Christ said, "*Flesh and blood didn't reveal that to you but my Father which is in heaven.*"

Have you beheld His glory? What is this glory of God that we see in the face of Christ Jesus? What is the glory of His holiness? Christ knew no sin. It's the glory of His love; "*greater love hath no man than this.*"

It is the glory of His justice; "*He spared not His own Son.*" It's the glory of His law; "*Christ came not to destroy but to fulfill.*" It is the glory of His wisdom; "*that God may be just and justifier.*"

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

It's the glory of His power. They said, "even the waves are subject to this man." "*What manner of man is this that even the winds and sea obey His voice?*" It is the glory of His life; the grave could not contain Him. It is the glory of God's truth; "*He shall not fail.*"

Have you beheld God's glory in the face of Christ Jesus? God's glory my friend is not in your denomination. It is not in your temple, tabernacle or cathedrals. We build these monstrosities. We put crosses on top of them and shine lights upon them. We shine lights through our pretty stained-glass windows and we think that we are showing the glory of God.

The glory of God is not seen in those old buildings that will someday come down. The glory of God is indestructible, infinite, and the glory of God is revealed in Christ our Lord.

It would be good for us if some of these places would burn down, it really would. Then we could worship God and quit worshipping our tabernacles, our temples, creed, laws, standards, preachers, and all of these organizations. Maybe we can quit talking about what we are doing for God and start talking about what God has done for us if anything at all.

All right, read this; "*the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory,*" His glory, not our glory, not the glory of our forefathers but His glory.

What is His glory? It is "*the glory of the only begotten of the Father.*" I know the difficulties we face in trying to comprehend the trinity. If we could comprehend God we would be God. I am telling you; God is one yet He is three in one.

You see, some say, "You just can't believe both." I don't know why not. I believe that Jesus Christ is God and Jesus Christ is a man. He is the God-man. I believe that God is revealed as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; I surely do.

There are too many Scriptures that teach this. God said that when He created man, He said; "*let us make man.*" Who is He talking to when He says, "*let us make man in our image?*" I didn't go too far in school but I know that the word "*us*" is not singular.

I read this at the baptism of Christ; the Father spoke from heaven and said, "*This is my beloved Son;*" the Holy Spirit descended "*in the form of a dove.*" At the transfiguration of Christ the Father spoke and said; "*this is my Son; hear ye him.*"

Then the promise of the Spirit, our Lord said; "*I will pray the Father and he will send you another comforter, the Spirit.*" John said in **1 John**, "*there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Spirit.*"

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Our Lord Jesus said, “*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.*” And “*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.*” And the second Adam is “*the Lord from heaven.*”

That’s clear to me; is that clear to you? There is a trinity. I can’t explain it; I’m not going to try to but I see in the face of Christ the glory of the Father. That’s right; I see the glory of the Father.

All right; now let’s close with this, “*the Word was made flesh.*” He condescended to become a man and dwelt, actually tabernacled among us. We saw God in human flesh and we beheld; we did ourselves, with eyes of faith, His glory, not ours but His.

He has the glory for everything that He did. His glory is the glory “*as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace.*” Full of grace, full; watch this word “*full.*” In **verse 16** it says, “*And of His fullness have we all received grace for grace,*” fullness my friend; “*full of grace and truth.*”

Nowhere at no time can you speak of anything or anybody containing all fullness. Nothing does except Christ, all fullness. “*In Him dwelleth all the fullness of God.*”

What are we saying? All that God requires, all that God did, all that God commands, all that God expects, all that God gives, all that the sinner wants, all that the sinner needs, all that the sinner lacks, all fullness is in Jesus Christ. That is the only place that it is, the only place.

There are other places where God has manifested the part of Himself, the portion of Himself, His benefits are blessings, but in Christ are all fullness of all things.

There is the fullness of deity, all fullness of deity. There is the fullness of love. There is a fullness of holiness. There is a fullness of power; “*He is able to save to the uttermost.*” There is fullness of life; “*I’m come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.*”

All that you need is in Christ. Nothing needs to be added to Christ. He says, “*In him dwelleth all fullness and you are complete in Him.*”

The fullness of truth, He says; “*I am the truth.*” He didn’t say, “I am true;” He said, “*I am the truth,*” all of it.

Christ is the fullness of victory. “*Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

He is the fullness of strength. He is the fullness of heaven. When the thief on the cross said, “*Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.*” He didn’t say; “I will go and make a place for you up there.” He said, “*You will be with me;*” that’s heaven you see.

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

JOHN 1:14 • HENRY T. MAHAN

“We beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full, (totally full) of all grace,” all fullness.

What kind of grace? The old tabernacle was full of laws. Christ is full of grace. There is no sinner too great for Him to save, no sin too black for him to wash. There’s no guilt too heavy for Him to bear; He is full of grace.

“He delights to show mercy.” He says:

**“Come ye sinners poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore,
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity, love, and power.**

**Come ye weary, heavy laden
Bruised and mangled by the fall
If you wait til you are better
You will not come at all.**

**Let not conscience make you linger
Nor a fitness fondly dream
All the fitness He requires
Is to feel your need of Him,”**

He is full of grace and He is full of truth. The old tabernacle was full of types. Christ our Lord is truth embodied; He is full of it.

You don’t have to know anything but Christ. You don’t have to have anything but Christ. He is full of the truth of God’s purpose, the truth of God’s justice, the truth of God’s love, the truth of God’s promise and the truth of God’s glory.

You have never read a verse that is as important as this verse; *“the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

All I need, all I need is Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ is all I need!