

## Christmas Day 2020

Christ is Born! Let us glorify Him!

At this point in our journey through Christmas we have the infant Jesus in the manger. We see His humanity and that is all we have at this point. The Shepherds and the Magi will speak of the divine interventions that lead them to the Child. Their testimonies will point to the fact that this child is very special. It will be revealed to us over time that this child laying in the manger is also the Son of God. Looking at this innocent child we may ask who is He and what will he become. Matthew the Poor asked the same question about this child's identity.

I found Matthew's writing on this topic to be a beautiful meditation and prayer. It is long, but worth reading. I found it edifying to the soul.

"Our Lord Jesus, You revealed God to us in Yourself. For You are God made visible and audible to us. All of God's attributes, which we had heard of with the ear, we saw in You. All that humanity was longing to know about the nature of God, You revealed to us in Yourself. We were yearning within ourselves to know: what are God's thoughts concerning us? Each of us in our own particular state and condition- the sick, the hurt, the oppressed, the sinner. So we came to know God's thoughts and we touched them through Your words to the Samaritan woman, the Canaanite woman and the little children. I am talking about what I felt.

I really lived with the Samaritan woman. I lived with the Canaanite woman and the children. I was with them in Christ's embrace. He embraced them and put His hands on their heads. The touches of Your hand and Your abundant compassion toward the leper, the paralytic and the deaf and the blind, we felt all of these. So we rejoiced in God.....if indeed You are God? Each of us was wondering, what are God's feelings toward the man born blind? He created him.

So we came to know and we toughed God's emotions in Your loving words and the toughing of Your hands on the blind man's eyes.

We use to ask, with childlike cautious shyness, does God have authority over the mighty winds and the raging waves? Can He silence them? Children's imaginations..... So when You rebuked the winds and calmed the sea with the words of Your authority and they were quieted, we rejoiced in God's authority, which favours our nature through You.

We use to wonder, would God care for a lost person in the wilderness, hungry and thirsty? So when You satisfied the multitude in the desert with the five barley loaves and two small fish and they had leftovers, we became confident in God's compassion through Your compassion and Your will fully represented God's will concerning us.

We use to wonder, does God measure things the way humans do? Must the sinner who is rejected by people also be rejected by God? So when You told the adulteress, "Go in peace. I do not condemn you", we became certain that You Yourself are God and not a mere man like us. You see what we do not see and judge with a judgement that is above ours. So we rejoiced that we have a kind of mercy with God that does not exist within our human race.

Death's authority over us was competing with our faith in God's authority and was terrifying us. So when You raised the dead from the tomb after he had started to decay, You reinforced our faith in God's authority and we believed that God's authority is Yours, and death retreated, with its authority from our hearts. However, if after You emptied Yourself of the glory of Your divinity, we are still incapable of fully understanding the attributes of God in You; love, compassion, meekness, humility, but also power and authority..... and the searching knowledge of what is beyond time and what is hidden in the depths of humanity.

So what are we to do, Lord, if we want to describe You before You emptied Yourself of the glory of Your divinity? Or after You completed Your mission through Your incarnation and now sit on the throne of Your glory? What can we say? We are incapable of describing Your divinity after You went to the Father. It

is baffling and impossible. One thing becomes apparent to us. If God, whom no one has seen, is like You, then He is a good God. It is then fitting for us to love Him and to worship Him, in You, from all the mind, heart, soul and strength. If God alone is capable of opening the eyes of the blind and raising the dead from the grave, then You Yourself are most truly God. And if God alone can forgive the sins of the whole world and wipe away the trespasses and transgressions from the whole human race, but also lift all its burdens from the heart and conscience and in its place implant holiness and perfection, then what You have accomplished proves that You Yourself are God.

MY Master, Jesus Christ, You alone have presented in Yourself the greatest expression of God, and You possessed the most authentic and most beautiful attributes of God and You worked the most sublime works of God. Moreover, You carried out His love toward us and perfected His authority. My Master, Jesus Christ, one final word I say to You. We have found God in You and You alone are worthy to possess not only our hearts but the hearts of the whole world.....Glory be to God forever, Amen.

So who is this child we celebrate? God truly incarnate amongst us. Matthew 's words are a beautiful reflection and meditation of who the infant would grow up to be. The attributes of His Father that He would reflect back to us. God Bless and enjoy the Holidays , Pastor D