

## Wonder ... of Humility

Luke 2:1-7

*Jesus, as we celebrate your birth, may we always appreciate the humility revealed when you, one with the Father for all eternity, became weak for our sake.*

—Henri Nouwen’s Advent Meditations, *Living in Hope*, p. 27

### 1. Humble in the manger—the incarnation.

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

—John 1:14a

#### Why did Jesus come in such humility?

Ontological reason--Because by nature, God is humble.

Practical and pedagogical reason—Any other way would have:

- Affirmed our wrong assumptions about who God is.

**1 Peter 5:5b**, “*All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*”

- Approved all the things we lust after.

**Mark 8:36**, “*What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?*”

- Pointed to the highest human treasures and led us astray.

**1 Timothy 6:9-10**, “*People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*”

### 2. Humble from the beginning—Godhead or Trinity.

*“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

—Matthew 11:29

Without humility a God of infinite power would use His resources to **impress** rather than to **transform**.

Without humility God would find **no value** in us, nor would He be **concerned** for our well-being.

“Each divine person is always denying himself for the sake of the others and deferring to the others.” —Steve Seamands in *Ministry in the Image of God*, p. 79-80.

### 3. Humble in His **passion**—Cross, death, and resurrection.

*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

—Isaiah 53:7

- a. Triumphant entry on a donkey’s colt.
- b. Washing the feet of His disciples
- c. Surrendering to the Father’s will in the Garden.
- d. Spoke no word in His own defense while on trial.
- e. Did not call for 10,000 angels to set Him free.
- f. Quietly appeared to believers after His Resurrection.

What does this mean for us?

**Ontologically** (nature of the kingdom)—**Goal** is down not up.

**Practically**: Greater **service**, more for others.

Admission requires **submission**.

Admission is necessary for **communion**.

**Memory Verse:**

*<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

—Luke 2:6-7