

Session 6: The Implications of the Humanity of Jesus

Jesus is fully human.

Fully God. Fully Human. One Person.

“...**the man** Christ Jesus...”

1 Timothy 2:5

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1:14

Jesus Christ has come **in the flesh**...

1 John 4:2

...in the likeness of sinful flesh...

Romans 8:3

...yet without sin...

Hebrews 4:15

And he still has a body—Jesus will be human forevermore!

[Jesus] will transform our lowly bodies to be like **his glorious body**...

Philippians 3:21

Without this, we cannot be saved

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. **Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect**, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:14-17

‘He emptied himself’

Christ Jesus..., though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied himself** [ἐκένωσεν (ekenosen) -- to empty, to deprive of content], by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:6-7

Although he was still the Word of God through which all things are sustained (Hebrews 1:3), as a man Jesus limited himself to his natural human restrictions. (He didn’t ‘cheat’!)

Why this matters

1. He **understands** the frustrations of human limits.
2. He **models** how to live well as a human—through the spiritual disciplines.
3. He **proves** that a limited human can—through the anointing of the Holy Spirit—do the supernatural works of God.
4. He **dignifies** the ordinary activities of everyday life.

1. Frustrations of Human Limits

Physically

Grew: And Jesus **grew** in wisdom and **stature**, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

Hunger: And He ate nothing during those [forty] days [in the wilderness], and when they had ended, **He became hungry**. Luke 4:2

Thirst: **“I thirst.”** John 19:28b

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, **“Give me a drink.”** John 4:7

Tired: Jesus was in the stern, **sleeping** on a cushion. Mark 4:38

Emotionally

Weeping: **Jesus wept.** John 11:35

& of course the Garden of Gethsemane (Mk. 14:32-42; Matt. 26:35-46; Lk. 22:39-46)

Mentally

Learnt: And Jesus **grew in wisdom** and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

Asked questions *After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and **asking them questions.*** Luke 2:46

Socially

Grew in favour with people:

*And Jesus **grew** in wisdom and stature, and **in favor** with God and **man.*** Luke 2:52

Was misunderstood by family *And **when his family heard it, they went out to seize him,** for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."* Mark 3:21

Was denied and betrayed by friends *One of the slaves of the high priest, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Jesus?" **Peter then denied it (him!) again,** and immediately a rooster crowed.* John 18:27

*Jesus said to him, "**Judas, would you betray** the Son of Man with a kiss?"* Luke 22:48

Spiritually

Grew in grace with God(!):

*And Jesus **grew** in wisdom and stature, and **in favor with God** and man.* Luke 2:52

Was tempted in 'every way'

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one **who in every respect has been tempted as we are,** yet without sin.* Hebrews 4:15

2. Spiritual Disciplines

Scripture

Resisted temptation with Scripture *"**It is written...**"* Matthew 4:4,7,10

Discovered identity/calling *Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, **as it is written of me** in the scroll of the book.'* Hebrews 10:7

*And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And **He opened the book and found the place where it was written,** "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME... And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* Luke 4:21

*When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me..**This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet...**"* Matthew 21:1-5;

*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **even so** must the Son of man be lifted up.* Jn.3:14

*And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them **the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.**"* Luke. 24:25-27

Prayer

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, **and there he prayed.*** Mark 1:35

He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. Luke 6:12

*Now **Jesus was praying** in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..."* Luke 11:1

Fasting

And after **fasting** forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Matthew 4:2

This kind does not go out except by prayer and **fasting**.

Matt. 17:21

“when you fast...”

Matthew 6:16

Submission

To his parents

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and **was submissive to them**. Lk. 2:51

To the law

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born **under the law**.

Galatians 4:4

3. Supernatural Works

God anointed **Jesus of Nazareth** with the **Holy Spirit** and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, **for God was with him**. Acts 10:38

Gifts of Healings

“the **power of God was present** to heal”!

Luke 5:17

“power had gone out from him...”

Mark 5:30

And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He wondered at their unbelief.

Mark 6:5-6

– Jesus’ healings are limited by lack of faith!

Words of Knowledge

Jesus was not omniscient (Mark 13:32: “But concerning that day or that hour [that heaven and earth will pass away], *no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*) so instances of supernatural knowledge must be ‘words of knowledge’:

And immediately Jesus, **perceiving in his spirit** that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?”

Mark 2:8

He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.” The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.” The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”

John 4:17-18

Words of Wisdom

On one of the days while He was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders confronted Him, and they spoke, saying to Him, “Tell us by what authority You are doing these things, or who is the one who gave You this authority?” Jesus answered and said to them, “I will also ask you a question, and you tell Me: “Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?” They reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’ “But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.” So they answered that they did not know where it came from. And Jesus said to them, “Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

Luke 20:1-8

Miracles

Eg. Matthew 14:22-32: Jesus walks on water and Peter is able to do the same

Eg. Mark 11:12-14; 11:20-24: Jesus curses the fig tree and says with faith all things are possible

Preaching

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit...and He began teaching... Lk. 4:14-15

So we too need *“not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”* Mark 13:11

(I realise this promise is specifically about being put on trial for the faith, but I firmly believe it is more generally applicable).

*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me
will also do the works that I do;
and **greater works than these** will he do...*

John 14:12

4. Dignifies the ordinary

“What we most need is a fresh revelation of the humanity of Jesus” (Dan Baumann)

Eating

“The Son of Man has come eating and drinking...” Luke 7:34

The banquet at Levi’s house with the tax collectors and sinners (Luke 5:27-39); the dinner at Simon the Pharisee’s house (7:36-50) where he’s anointed by the ‘sinful woman’ with the alabaster jar; being welcomed into busy Martha’s house (10:38-42); inviting himself to supper with Zacchaeus—much of Jesus’ ministry happened informally around the meal table.

What can we learn from the way Jesus ate his meals? That they are opportunities for building relationships and sharing the truth of God.

Sleeping

...though we spend a good deal of our time asleep... there has hardly been any reflection within the Christian community on its theology. (Ian Stackhouse, The Day Is Yours)

In vain you get up early and stay up late, working hard to have enough food-- yes, He gives sleep to the one He loves. Psalm 127:2

Now Jesus did sometimes get up early and stay up late (even all night) to pray...

Learning and growing

This is one of the important ones, because it so directly turns upside-down all of our unhelpful notions of what ‘perfection’ means. If we could just grasp something of the significance that Jesus — very God in real humanity — was morally flawless and unchangeably divine, and yet still needed to learn and to grow!

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

Celebration

“The kingdom of heaven is like... a feast” Matthew 22:2

From the opening moment of Jesus’ ministry, when he miraculously produced an extra one hundred and fifty gallons of the finest wine (John 2:1-12), to his final resurrection appearance, when he had a surprise barbecue breakfast of fried fish awaiting his disciples (John 21), Jesus demonstrated a zeal not just for celebrating, but for celebrating in style.

What are the occasions in my life that I currently pay little heed to, which I need to truly celebrate? Not just for the opportunity that celebrations present to gather together the neighbours for a party, but because joyous celebration is the only appropriate response of gratitude to the outrageous and undeserved goodness of God.