

"You Have My Word"

John 1:1-14

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Are you ever skeptical when someone says to you, "You have my word."? I sure am. And it's because, from my experience, I have found that people often break promises and speak empty vows. Pledges are made, only to be forgotten. Assurances are given, then ignored. This happens with treaties, in business, in politics, and unfortunately, quite often with wedding vows. In fact, it happens in all of our relationships.

However, it's different when God speaks. Listen again to these words from Genesis; "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light", and there was light." (Genesis 1:1-3)

You see, when God speaks his Word it's not just talk. His Word does what it says. And folks, we have God's Word on it. Just think about what Scripture says about God's Word. In Isaiah it says, "The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8) The Lord also says in Isaiah, "My Word will not return to me empty." (Isaiah 55:11) Folks, understand this truth, the most powerful force in the world, in the universe, and in all of creation is God's Word!

Now, with that in mind, look at that passage that we read from John's Gospel today. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. (John 1:1-3) Now, skip the verse 14. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." So, this very Word that said, "Let there be light" actually became "flesh".

OK, what I find interesting here is that the word, "flesh", in the original New Testament Greek is "Carne", which literally means, "raw meat". So, on that first Christmas, the Word, God Himself, became "raw meat" and made his dwelling among us.

Now, I bring this up because when this word, "carne", or "flesh", is connected to the idea of a God, that was such a repulsive thought to the Greek and Romans. You see, for them, the flesh was disgusting and is doomed to be destroyed. What mattered the most to them was the spirit of a person. Flesh was dirty, it was nothing. So, according to them, no God in his right mind, would have anything to do with the flesh. Yet, this is exactly what God did. The Word, God Himself, who is absolute perfection and holiness, became dirty and disgusting flesh.

OK, another thing that I want you to understand here is that the word did not change into flesh, or morph into flesh, or transition into flesh. If that were the case, then the

flesh would no longer be God, there would be a separation between the two. So, remaining who He was, a holy and perfect God, Christ Jesus became what we are, "flesh". That means, what we are celebrating today is Christ, who is the Word, who is God Himself, who created everything that exists; He is born, He is now in the flesh, He is "raw meat", like you and me.

Now, as I mentioned, the Greeks and the Romans couldn't get past this. They just could not grasp the idea that a pure and holy God would become filthy flesh. But this is exactly what our God has done. Why? Why would He humbled Himself, lower Himself to become disgusting Flesh?

You know the answer. It is love. Only this is a love that none of us can fully understand. It was way, way beyond our comprehension. I think that perhaps the closest analogy is a parent's love for their child. Parents, at one time or another, I think all of us have faced some form of rejection from our children, especially when they're in their teenage years, the rebellious years. If you have experienced that rejection, then you know how much that hurts. Well, for the most part, and within reason, you would do almost anything to restore that relationship. And why would you do this? Because of this love that you have for them.

OK, magnify that a gazillion times and maybe you can understand a little better, the love that brought Jesus into this world, the love that caused the Word to become flesh. Our God and father would do anything to restore this relationship that sin has destroyed. This is why the Word became flesh, to destroy the power that sin, death, Hell, and Satan had over us. That is really what we are celebrating, the love that brought Word Incarnate into this world so that He might bear the sin of the world on that cross and destroy its power forever.

All right, so let me ask you some questions that people struggle with a lot. Do you think that this is God who has created everything that exists just by speaking His Word, could not save you from your sins? Do you think that the Word who became Flesh, and who went to the cross to be sacrificed in your place, does not have the power and the authority to offer up that perfect sacrifice and free you from everything that has kept you so far away from Him? And do you think that your Lord and Savior would go through all of this if He did not love you?

Alright then, let this truth take hold of your life. It does not matter what your sins are, how great they are, or how many they are. It does not matter how unworthy, unclean, or untouchable you feel that you are. The Word became Flesh, for you. He was born into this world, suffered and died on the cross, and rose from the dead, for you. And He did all of this out of the most amazing love for you. Folks, take hold of this truth, celebrate it, and live it out every day. This has all been done for you! And you have God's Word on it! Amen.