

November 7 Adult Spiritual Growth Class Synopsis

Unshakable Hope: Chapter 7: God gets you

The incarnation is what separates Christianity from all other religions in the world. Why did Jesus have to become fully man? Why did Jesus need to remain fully God?

Since our high priest, Jesus, understands us, how does this affect the way we approach God in prayer?

We can find hope and confidence in knowing that we have an approachable God in Christ Jesus that through His incarnated humanity, He fully understands and empathizes with our weaknesses. We are encouraged by the words of Hebrews 4:15-16: *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

The word incarnation is made from two Latin words: **in** and **carne** which together mean “in fleshing.” Jesus came down from heaven to be born into the world as a human to do only what God could do: show us who our God really is, be the sinless and perfect atonement that we could never be or pay, show us that not even death can separate us from His love, restore our relationship with Him through His saving grace.

Lucado shares that Jesus was so human that he could touch His people, so mighty that He could heal them. He was so human that he spoke with an accent, so heavenly that He spoke with authority. He was so human that he could blend in unnoticed for thirty years, so mighty that He could change human history and be unforgotten for 2,000 years. All man, and yet, all God.

Scripture tells us that “God was pleased for all of himself to live in Christ.” Yet Jesus experienced all of the troubles and trials of life that we experience.

Jesus was troubled in spirit: *Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour (John 12:27).*

Jesus was confronted with those he loved who did not agree with him in purpose: *From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things ..., and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” (Matthew 16:21-23)*

Jesus was overwhelmed with grief: *When Jesus saw her (Mary) weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. Jesus wept. (John 11:35)*

Jesus prayed with loud cries and tears: *While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. (Hebrews 5:7)*

It is in our weaknesses, challenges and sufferings that God does His greatest work. The prophet Isaiah states that *God will not cause pain without allowing something new to be born (Isaiah 66:9)*. Just as with natural child birth, God also does with our spiritual birth and new creation. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)* For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)

We can find strength in knowing that through it all *God's grace is sufficient, for His power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)*. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak (Isaiah 40:29).

In the waiting, in the searching, in the healing and the hurting, there is Jesus. His mercy and grace are there every minute, every moment to help us in our time of need. He is the only One who can carry us home to the throne of God's grace! Praise God!

A song to reflect and pray on:

[There Was Jesus - Zach Williams & Dolly Parton - Lyric Video - YouTube](#)

Looking ahead – Sunday November 14

Chapter 8 – Christ is praying for you

God's Promise

Romans 8:34

Jesus.... is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.