

He Became Man

For us and our salvation

When I want to play with my youngest nephew who is small, I have to squat down on the ground. Otherwise, I am too tall to interact well with him. When he needs comfort his parents squat down, embrace him, and pick him up. They went down to his level so that they could bring him up to their level.

Once upon a time there was a man who wanted to teach his parrot to speak. He tried talking to the parrot, but the parrot didn't respond. So the man invented a machine to become a parrot himself.

Then he started speaking to the old parrot and the old parrot listened to the new parrot, and seeing the new parrot taught the old parrot to speak. The man became a parrot so that the parrot could become like him.

St. Ephrem used this analogy in the 4th century to explain why God became man.

(Luke 1:26-56)

Where do we learn about this?

"He has spoken to us by his Son... He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature" Hebrews 1:2-4

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." John 1:14 Some theologians talk about God pitching a tent among us.

"because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-23

What does this remind us of?

Will call him Emmanuel Is 7:14,

A miraculous birth 1 Sam 1-2

He will crush. Gensin 3:1-16

And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exodus 24:8

"Holy are you, God the Father, holy is your only Son, and holy is your Spirit, who is all holy.

Through the incarnation of your Son you saved the world and freed it from sin and kept it safe from going astray." - Maronite Liturgy Anaphora of St. Sixtus

What does this teach us?

"who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Phillipians 2:6-8)

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

Mary is our mother.

Mary is the Ark of the New Covenant.

Humility – "A virtue by which a man knowing himself as he truly is...willingly submits himself to God" and right authority. Devine, Arthur. "Humility." The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vol. 7. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1910.

How does this save us?

We can know God's love CCC 458

To be our Model of holiness CCC 459

Partakers of the divine nature CCC 460

Mary is a model for holiness.

Mary prays for.

Jesus came to us through Mary.

Hymn

Glory to the Word, the Word made flesh, who has come to earth to dwell with us.

We have heard and seen and touched our Lord; our mouths have received his flesh and blood.

Let us thank our Lord who came to save us. He gave hope and life. He saved the world.

Jesus, Mary's child, spoke not a word; though, as God, he knew the tongues of all.

The Eternal Word, the Ancient One, Joseph's arms embraced with joy and love.

Christ was but a child, so meek and poor; yet so wise and strong, Our King and God.
(Christmas Novena)

Prayer

What activities that you do can be offered up in prayer because God became a human? Our sleep, our work, and our play have all been sanctified by Jesus.

Questions

Describe a time you have had to explain something to someone younger than you? What did you have to do to make them understand?

When is a time someone explained something complicated to you in a way that you could understand?

Do you remember a time when you were sad and one of your parents or loved ones picked you up and comforted you?

How do you learn? Do you learn best by hearing, reading, or seeing?

Who had to say yes for the incarnation to happen?

Why did God become human?

What is the smallest baby you have ever seen?
What does that baby teach us about the incarnation?

Was Jesus ever your age? What do you think He would do when He was your age?

What does Luke 1 teach us about Mary and her role in the incarnation?

Going Deeper

St. Ephrem wrote many poems that focus on the incarnation including the Hymns on the Nativity which often takes the form of Mary's Theological

Who indeed has seen the Babe Who is more ancient than His bearer? The Ancient One entered and became young in her. He emerged an infant and grew by her milk. He entered and became small in her;
He emerged and grew through her—a great wonder!
-From Hymn on the Nativity 12 St. Ephrem

Would the incarnation have happened if Adam and Eve wouldn't have sinned?

How essential is the incarnation to God's plan of creation?

Read CCC 479-483 which sections do you not understand?

Could Mary have said no to the the incarnation?