

## Chapter 7:

### When God Put On Flesh

The prophets had cried out for generations. The altars overflowed with blood. The troughs ran red with sacrifice, yet the hearts of the people remained unchanged. God looked upon it all and said, in essence: You are not getting it.

And so, Love did what love always does—Love came closer. God robed Himself in flesh. He did not arrive with armies, crowns, or thrones. He came wrapped in swaddling cloth, laid in a feeding trough. He slipped on the servant's robe, the sandals of humility, and stepped into our humanity.

We often say, “God sent His Son.” Yet if God is One, what happened in the incarnation was not divine outsourcing. It was God Himself—choosing limitation, choosing vulnerability, choosing to show us in human form what love truly looks like.

This raises the mystery: Was Christ limited? Yes. He hungered. He thirsted. He grew weary. He wept. He could be wounded, and He could die. This was no accident. It was the point. For love is not domination. Love does not force its way. Love is revealed most clearly in weakness—when it chooses to be vulnerable.

The life of Jesus did not match our philosophies of success. He lived in obscurity for thirty years before stepping into public ministry. His ministry lasted just over three. He never wrote a book, never built a kingdom, never held political power. Instead, He healed the broken, fed the hungry, touched the untouchable and lifted the fallen. His reward was betrayal, abandonment, and crucifixion. By the world's standards, it was a failure. But by heaven's standards, it was fullness.

The cross was not defeated. It was God's exclamation point: This is what love looks like. Gentle. Kind. Patient. Long-suffering. Willing to endure suffering rather than inflict it. Willing to embrace death rather than demand another's.

And here lies the paradox: by limiting Himself, God revealed His limitless nature. By choosing weakness, He showed the strength of love. By dying, He revealed the life that cannot die.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” These words from the book of James echo the very life of Christ. Perseverance is not glamorous. It is not easy. But it is the soil where love grows deep.

The incarnation, then, is not a theological puzzle to be solved. It is a story to be lived. God came to show us what love looks like. And He still does—through every act of humility, every quiet kindness, every patient endurance, every life willing to be robed in love.

## **Journal Prompts**

- 1.) How does it affect your view of God to imagine Him “slipping on the servant’s robe” and entering our dust?
- 2.) What does it mean to you that God chose limitation in Christ?
- 3.) Where in your life do you feel weak or limited—and how might that be a place for love to shine through?
- 4.) How does Jesus’ quiet, short, and humble ministry challenge your own ideas of what success looks like?

[<<< PREVIOUS](#) — [NEXT >>>](#)