

# Made Victorious

## Why God Became Man--part 5

December 28, 2014

Series review: Christ came as a man. We are (1) Made Alive; (2) Made Right; (3) Made Honorable; (4) Made "Happy\*"; and (5) Made Victorious.

### **DAY 1: Satan's coming defeat**

1. When you think of Christmas do you normally think about a "beginning" or an "ending?" Why?

2. Most people think of Christmas as a beginning, the "beginning" of Christ's incarnation, God becoming man. But Christmas is also an "ending," the ending of the reign of Satan on earth. It won't be a sudden end, but the "beginning" of Satan's downfall has just hit center stage!

*1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

3. The apostle John gives us another reason for Jesus, God's Son, coming as a man. What "works of the devil" do you think Jesus' appearing as a man will destroy?

*Galatians 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,*

4. Put your thinking cap on. Why would God find it necessary to defeat Satan by the sending of His own Son *as a man*?

5. We know that Satan saw great opportunity to destroy the Messiah right at the beginning of Jesus' birth! Think of it--a helpless newborn, protected by a young man and woman living with very little *human resources*.

6. Satan must have been licking his chops! He attempted to have the baby killed through King Herod, only to have Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee under cover to Egypt.

7. If you were in God's position, is this how you would have begun the ultimate defeat of Satan? Why or why not?

## **DAY 2: Satan will be "driven out"**

1. Christmas marks an ending – the beginning of the end of the reign of Satan.
  2. Think back to the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were made holy. God gave them a holy paradise in which to live.
  3. When Satan came to tempt Adam and Eve, they had great opportunity to defeat Satan by resisting temptation, and standing on the honor of God.
  4. Satan tempted Adam and Eve, and humanity fell. Since then, every human being has been born with inclinations to turn away from God and "do their own thing." Satan won a gargantuan victory that day, that has lasted these thousands of years.
  5. Satan, already thrust out of heaven for his own rebellion would have been rightly shamed by man's obedience as a fool. Think of it! Someone weaker and living on planet earth should not sin even though Satan tempted them. In contrast, while Satan was stronger and not bound by earth, he sinned against God without anyone to tempt him!
  6. Instead, Adam and Eve foolishly and wickedly "went over to the other side," and became prisoners of sin, doing Satan's bidding.
- John 12:31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.*
- <sup>32</sup> But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."*
7. What does Jesus call Satan?
  8. What does Jesus say is coming for Satan?
  9. How does Jesus say that Satan will "be driven out?"
  10. God didn't just shrug His shoulders and mutter, "Boys will be boys" when Adam and Eve fell. God began the process of redemption which included a Man (Jesus) who would come and defeat Satan!
  11. What strikes you from today's devotional?

### DAY 3: Satan defeated by Man.

1. Theologians have wrestled with the question of man's redemption. For example, since man sinned and lost his position and place with God, shouldn't man be the one to bring about man's redemption? Paul says something very similar in 1 Corinthians 15.

*1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

<sup>21</sup> *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.*

<sup>22</sup> *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

<sup>23</sup> *But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

<sup>24</sup> *Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.*

<sup>25</sup> *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*

2. Many wonder why Jesus even had to come as a man at all. Why not just "wave a wand" and do away with Satan? If that was what God did, would:

a. Satan's defeat of mankind be vindicated unless "man" overcame and defeated Satan?

b. Would Satan's victory over man "linger" in the air, as a blot against the honor of God and God's redemption of man?

3. When I was a teen, I didn't listen to my father's counsel about driving more carefully when the roads were wet. One afternoon, I applied the brakes to my car and *skidded* into the lady's car in front of mine. My father could have paid to have her car repaired very easily.

4. Instead, he told me to pay for it. (Important point: My father assured the woman that I would pay for the damages. He guaranteed payment). I had a part-time job and it took me about a month of wages to pay her back. What effects do you think this had on me?

5. What was the difference between my father paying for my debt and me, a son, paying for my debt?

6. What difference is there between God the Father "waving a wand" and "forgiving" our sin by command, and a man, the Man, Jesus Christ, paying for our sin? Adam, a man (and all of us) were defeated by Satan. Now, a man, Jesus Christ defeats Satan? What difference does that make?

## DAY 4: Total victory.

*1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

1. Jesus, God the Son, became completely human at what we celebrate as Christmas. He came to destroy the works of the devil, both the works Satan started and Satan's works, once and for all.

2. The sinful works of man were begun by man but would be erased by a Man. That Man was not just a good man, but the God-Man. Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully human!

3. Jesus sent the twelve out on a mission trip. When they returned Jesus gave them some astounding news!

*Luke 10:18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*

*<sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

4. Jesus saw Satan take some defeats at the hands of ordinary followers of Jesus, and these defeats were no ordinary defeats! How does Jesus describe Satan's defeats in Luke 10:18?

5. In Luke 10:19, Jesus compares Satan and his minions to snakes and scorpions. Satan and his demons had run amok through human history wrecking devastation everywhere. Here, in this verse, Jesus indicates that the tide is turning, in real time, through ordinary men!

6. Jesus gives three examples of the victory His followers will have over Satan. Amplify what you think Jesus means by each one:

a. "...to **trample on** ..." -

b. "...to **overcome all the power of the enemy**..." -

c. "...**nothing will harm you**..." -

7. In your daily life, Satan no longer "has" to win in your life. Jesus said, "*I have given you authority ...*" (Luke 10:19).

8. Thank Him for the victory over Satan that you can enjoy today!

## DAY 5: What is victory?

1. God the Son became the God-Man, fully human to make us:
  - a. Right,
  - b. Alive,
  - c. Honorable,
  - d. Happy\* (\*God gets to define "happy")
  - e. Victorious.

*1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

2. We must remember that His sacrifice, His glorious work of God was not accomplished because He was forced to. God the Father did not have to "twist His arm" or "convince" Jesus to come in our behalf.

3. God did not have to do anything about our rebellion. We didn't want anything to do with God. He could have just said to us, "Fine! Go your way. Let's see how that works out for you."

4. Instead, He did everything possible, at every cost to Himself, to defeat Satan in general, and the works of Satan in your life!

5. What would motivate Him to undertake such a quest at such a cost? He was motivated by nothing more than infinite love, and a love completely unfathomable to us.

6. ...And that is the point of it all! But love for us is not the endpoint. We have tasted His love and now He gives us forks and spoons to "feed" the love of God to others.

*1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

<sup>8</sup>*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

<sup>9</sup>*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*

<sup>10</sup>*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

7. This is victory! The ability to overcome our natural self-centeredness and begin to love others with the same kind of love which has been lavished on us!