

## **Why Did God Send our Savior as a Baby and Not as a Glorious Prince to Rule Over His People Israel?**

**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. (John 3: 16-18)**

**In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. (Luke 1:26-36)**

We have heard these passages from Scripture so often, but have we ever pondered on why God sent the Messiah as a baby, so tiny and helpless, totally dependent upon His mother and earthly father? God had created Adam, the first member of the human race, at the adult age considered the peak of human perfection, so why didn't He have Jesus, the New Adam, come as an adult in the prime of life as well? Could Jesus not have gone straight into His Messianic mission as an adult and fulfilled it? Of course He could have, but God willed otherwise. Why? Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, in her mystical experiences and private revelations on the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, offers us this insight.

**It was made known to me why the Redeemer deigned to remain nine months in His Mother's womb and to be born as a little child, and why it was not His will to appear as perfect and beautiful as the newly-created Adam; but I can no longer explain this clearly. I can, however, remember this much—that it was His will to reconsecrate man's conception and birth which had been so sadly degraded by the Fall. The reason why Mary became His Mother and why He did not come sooner was that she alone, and no creature before her or after her, was the pure Vessel of Grace, promised by God to mankind as the Mother of the Incarnate Word, by the merits of whose Passion mankind was to**

**be redeemed from its guilt.** The Blessed Virgin was the one and only pure blossom of the human race, flowering in the fullness of time. **All the children of God from the beginning of time who have striven after salvation contributed to her coming. She was the only pure gold of the whole earth. She alone was the pure immaculate flesh and blood of the whole human race, prepared and purified and ordained and consecrated through all the generations of her ancestors, guided, guarded, and fortified by the Law until she came forth as the fullness of Grace. She was pre-ordained in eternity and passed through time as the Mother of the Eternal.**

(Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, THE LIFE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN Mary, Templegate Publishers, Springfield, IL, Pg. 145.)

**What a powerful thought! It was God's will to send the Redeemer as a little child in order to re-consecrate man's conception and birth which had been so sadly degraded by the Fall.** We all know the story of Adam's sin, the original sin that was passed on to all his posterity, along with the concupiscence that so corrupted our human nature. Thus we are conceived and born with the stain of that original sin on our souls and must struggle against the concupiscence of the flesh that is the result of this sin and drives us toward personal sin. Jesus, a divine person, by the very act of assuming our human nature in its entirety into his divinity, totally identifying with our frail human nature from its very beginning to its natural end, from conception and birth to the moment of death, re-consecrated our humanity to God and stands as the new exemplar of truly human behavior as He leads us out of the darkness of sin and into His everlasting light. Hence, we speak of the Sacred Humanity, the New Adam, the re-consecrated Man Who is infinitely sacred and holy, for He is also God! We have been re-created in the image of this Sacred Humanity through our Baptism into His passion, death and Resurrection by the power of His Holy Spirit Who has been poured out on us from Christ's wounded side, bathed and given new life in the Blood of the Lamb. We are called to be children of light and children of God, born first in the flesh and now in the Holy Spirit.

The Natural Law that was written into our natures and the Moral Law that was revealed to us through the prophets were also twisted by sin. Adam's pride contradicted the Natural Law that holds all people and things in their proper order and relationship to God, to self, and to others. Adam denied the most fundamental truth of human existence, that he is a mere creature born, as it were, out of the eternal wound in the Creator's side near His Heart, even as Eve, mother of all the living, was born out of Adam's side near his heart. In relationship to God we are all in the position of Eve, born out of that sacred place in God that is His Heart, Jesus, the Logos, the Word from which all things were made and in whose image all things are created. Adam, believing the lie that he could be god, reversed the truth of the Natural Law that demands from the creature obedience and worship of the Creator. The creature is necessarily and essentially subordinate to the Creator because the creature does not exist apart from the Creator nor can cause itself to be or to continue to be. Peace and happiness are only possible when we live true to our

nature, keeping all things in their proper hierarchy of authority and reverence. Adam was given authority over the animals when he named them but God alone has the authority over Adam, over mankind and all creation. That truth was evident in God's request of Adam to respect His Supreme Authority with obedience in not eating of the fruit of the one tree in the center of the Garden. Thus original sin distorts the original order of God's creation and can only be restored by a new creation in the sanctifying and redemptive order of supernatural grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Sin brought a darkening of the intellect, making us easier prey for the lies of Satan; a hardening of our hearts that turns us inward to self-worship instead of outward to worship of God; and a weakening of our wills which effects so much compromise of God's truth in our behavior.

The Church, in her Easter liturgy, cries out, "O felix culpa!" O happy fault to merit so great a Redeemer! God promised Adam a Redeemer Who would undo his sin and re-create us. God would not only walk beside us but would dwell within us with His Indwelling Presence. When we are baptized into Christ, we are conceived anew and are reborn in His Blood to a supernatural level of grace greater than the preternatural state Adam enjoyed in the Garden. This redemptive sanctifying grace is an ontological change, a change in our very being! We are indeed a new creation in Christ our Lord! "O felix culpa!" "O happy fault!" God likewise prepared from all eternity that new Eve, the new Mother of all the living, that splendid Vessel of Grace, born, too, from the side of Christ as first member and Mother of His Church, who would bear the Holy One of God into our world in her pure and immaculate flesh, already redeemed, restored and recreated, from the very first moment of her conception, in anticipation of redemption by the birth of her child, The Messiah.

**God Ineffable ... having foreseen from all eternity the lamentable wretchedness of the entire human race which would result from the sin of Adam, decreed by a plan hidden from the centuries, to complete the first work of His goodness by a mystery yet more wondrously sublime through the Incarnation of His Word. ... From the beginning, and before time began, the eternal Father chose and prepared for His only-begotten Son a Mother in whom the Son of God would become incarnate and from whom, in the blessed fullness of time, He would be born into this world. ...**

**At the beginning of the world, God announced His merciful remedies prepared for the regeneration of mankind – words by which He crushed the audacity of the deceitful Serpent and wondrously raised up the hope of our race, saying, "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, between thy seed and her seed." (Gen. 3:15) (Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, paragraphs 1 & 17.)**

Not only did Jesus come as a baby to re-consecrate human conception and birth in the new order of His redeeming grace as revealed in His Sacred Humanity, but He came as a baby to unfold for us the utter enormity of God's love for mankind and His incomprehensible humility in laying aside his divinity to assume our flesh and to show us His predilection for the poor and the lowly. He did not redeem the world in the glory of an

earthly prince whom many might fear or with whom they could not identify, but He took on the utter helplessness and complete dependence of an infant, for everyone is born as an infant, without distinction of fame, power, class or wealth. Precisely because it is without distinction, a baby is disarming, utterly innocent and trusting and simple, evokes no fear and appeals to the heart of the onlooker, begging to be picked up, cradled and loved! God simply wants us to be at home with Him, unafraid and held close to our hearts. He wants to be near us to heal our wounds so they do not preoccupy and turn us away from His glory!

He, Eternal Glory and Light, endured the darkness of nine months in Mary's womb to symbolize His taking onto Himself all the darkness of sin and evil, conquering it by bringing it all into His everlasting Light. He is the dawn of God's eternal day! He is the Light of the world, the Way, the Truth and the Life Who restores peace to all by restoring the right order in all things, with their beginning and end and their destiny in God. We were made by God for God alone! He alone can satisfy the hungers of the human heart and the desires for intimacy and wholeness that lie in the depths of the soul!

**God is light, man is darkness, and unless he comes into the light, he will remain forever darkness. ... The will of the Father must be dearer to you than all else. This is the lesson every soul desiring intimate union with my Son must strive to learn. ... There will be peace, as has been promised, but not until my children are purified and cleansed from defilement, and clothed thus with the white garment of grace, are made ready to receive this peace, so long promised and so long held back because of the sins of men. ... Nothing is accomplished without pain. Prepare to suffer much. ... He who refuses to suffer will never abide in the Spirit of Christ, will never be formed into His image.**

**(Sr. Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Fostoria, Ohio, Pgs. 4, 19, 21, 23.)**

Christ's birth as a baby also speaks to God's predilection for the poor and the lowly and His identity with them. Scripture is filled with exhortations to care for the poor and to avoid using one's authority to lord it over those under it. It speaks of God's will to bring down the haughty and exalt the lowly, as He did Mary, the humble handmaid of the Lord, and Joseph, the just one, who consented to guard and keep the secret of Christ's divinity and Mary's perpetual virginity until the day when God would choose to reveal them. Jesus has been revealed to us as the Son of the living God, the Word made flesh and dwelling amongst us, the Messiah, Emmanuel, God with us, Lord of Lords and Prince of Peace. Jesus' glory was veiled while He was on earth, though we have seen a glimpse of it in the works of His hands, His miracles, in the forgiveness of sin and the establishment of His Church and the Eucharist, in His death that overcame sin and death by His Resurrection. He humbly hid His full glory from us lest we should see it and die from the sheer splendor of it all, as Moses nearly did on Mount Sion. No one can see God with these poor human

eyes and live. Christ will come again in full glory and our eyes will be opened so we can then see that glory and not die but live! Our Lady of America® spoke to Sr. Mildred thus:

**God works often through little and humble things and such instruments should never be despised but accepted and used with love and gratitude. ... [In this message, Jesus tells us:] Many false prophets and self-proclaimed Messiahs are drawing many away from Me, the Way, the Truth and the Life. I am the true Messiah who was sent and the only one proclaimed as such by My Father. Seek Me for I only am truth, I only am the Christ. (Diary, Pgs. 35, 40.)**

The Incarnation of God is a historical fact that has impacted all human history and is at its center, measuring time before and after it. It is a mystery that invades all human life with its wonder. As Christ's complete humility and obedience to the will of God corrected the reversed orders in our nature effected by Adam's pride and disobedience, so it impels us to imitate Christ's example in order to sustain ourselves on the path of truth and life. Life is always sacred in the eyes of God because it is His work made in His image and was created good. Our human nature, once defaced by sin, has now put on the image of the Sacred Humanity of Jesus, and is raised from glory to glory when sanctified as a living temple of the Holy Spirit, a tabernacle in flesh for the Indwelling Presence of our Holy Triune God. Such a supernatural dignity added to our restored nature and the reverence for the Indwelling Trinity within us demands an even greater respect for all life, especially human life, particularly at the point of its greatest vulnerability, conception and birth, when one is totally at the mercy of others, a state God so humbly embraced. What challenging implications for the pro-life issues of our day. It is God's will, revealed in the Infant conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, that we protect this life with the same passion and love with which He planned for it from all eternity and through the centuries until the fullness of time. And to help us do His Will He has given us the example and mediation of that Sacred Humanity, born as an Infant, and the intercession of the holy and Immaculate Virgin who is the Mother of that Sacred Humanity.

**I am the Mother of the sacred humanity, and it is my special work as co-redemptrix of the human race to help souls reach the sanctity of the Father in eternal union by showing them how to put on Christ, to imbibe His Spirit, and thus become one with Him. ...But to make your hearts grow more and more like to the Heart of the Son, you must go to the Mother, whose heart is most like His. From this Pure and Immaculate heart you will learn all that will make you more pleasing to the Divine Heart of the Son of God. The Holy Trinity looks down with infinite delight upon such souls and makes them Its heaven upon earth. Come to me, my children, come to me and learn. There is much I would teach you. ... My heart, my Immaculate Heart, is the channel through which the grace of the Sacred Heart are given to men. (Diary Pgs. 24, 16, 17.)**

Just as Jesus is the Mercy Seat of God given to us for our mediation before the throne of God, so Mary is the Mother of Mercy given to us to intercede with her Son for all our needs. The more we understand the mystery of the Incarnation of God in our history and our personal lives, and the great glory He has given to us in our baptism into Jesus, the more we will understand the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of all human life. Our holy Catholic Church is the strongest defense for that dignity of the human person and sacredness of all human life, from the first moment of conception to the point of natural death. Let us bring to Mary's intercession the protection of the conception of human life, of infant life in the womb at all stages of development, bringing to her Heart all who are in need of redemption from sins against life: those who interrupt nature and prevent life from coming into existence by the use of artificial methods of birth control; those who seek, perform or profit from abortion at any time; those who take the lives of others without warrant; those who take their own lives in suicide and those who hasten the death of others with assisted suicide or euthanasia; those who experiment with human life in the lab; those who neglect to care for the poor and the elderly, orphans and widows, especially in their own families. Let us bring them all, and ourselves, to the Heart of our Mother of Mercy. This Mother of Mercy once said to St. Bridget:

**No matter how numerous a person's sins may be, if he turns to me with a sincere purpose of amendment, I am prepared forthwith to receive him graciously, for I do not regard the number of sins he has committed, but look only upon the dispositions with which he comes to me; for I feel no aversion in healing his wounds, because I am called and am in truth the Mother of Mercy.**

In a letter dated May of 1957, Sister Mildred wrote that Our Lady showed herself to her as the Mother of Mercy. With her arms extended and her blue mantle affording a safe refuge for the sinner, she said:

**I am the Mother of Mercy. Under my mantle I will hide my children. The justice of God will not reach them if they seek refuge beneath the protection of my mercy. My Son gives to me all those souls who come to me with confidence, calling upon my aid. Their salvation is in my hands. I will obtain for them the necessary graces to save their souls.**

**Come to me, poor, suffering and frightened ones. I am your Mother. Never will I forsake you. Only come to me with a wholehearted and loving trust. Place your souls into my keeping. I am that faithful Mother who never forsakes her children. Honor me by your confidence and love. This I desire and ask of you my poor children. Do not deny the wishes of your Mother.**

**I am the Mother of Mercy!**

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Octave of Christmas, 2011.**