

The Personality of Jesus Christ

Sermon Topic: The Personality of Jesus Christ

Bible Verse: Isaiah 9:6

Sermon Theme: Describing the personality of Jesus. Creating a clear image of the divine heart manifested through the humanity of Jesus. The True Father as the model of Jesus. By identifying the True Father's personality in Jesus, people can more easily discover the same personality in Rev. Moon.

Main idea: This sermon begins with the basic question of the Christology lecture: Is Jesus man or God? Establish Jesus as the son of God and the next Adam in the same process of logic as in the Christology lecture (green book, Section 2, Subsection B).

Fallen man's experience, as described by Paul in Romans 7:21, has been that divinity (spirit) and humanity (flesh) are in a state of war. But in Jesus, his war does not take place. Jesus is the harmony of spirit and flesh, and therefore his divinity manifests perfectly through his humanity. We have tried to understand the personality of Jesus by stressing divinity and ignoring his humanity. But the result is a very unrealistic, ethereal, other-worldly, spaced-out vision of Jesus. As a result, the deepest heart of Jesus has remained hidden.

The Personality of Jesus expressed in the New Testament:

1. Jesus was a carpenter, not a slight figure but actually very strong and muscular as was required to do the work of a carpenter in Jesus' era.
2. Jesus spoke to large crowds, sometimes of several thousand. He was able to keep their attention and interest, which meant he must have been a very dynamic speaker. Also, without a PA system, Jesus must have possessed a very strong and loud voice.

3. Jesus cleared the temple of the money changers. He used a whip (which he made himself, according to (John 2:15)). He turned over tables and dumped the merchants' money onto the floor. No merchant stoop up or challenged him. This reveals the zeal and imposing strength that Jesus possessed. It is hardly the spaced-out Jesus we see in the movie King of Kings, for instance.
4. But this same Jesus had another side, the sensitive, the poetic. "Consider the lilies and the birds of the air..." is one of Jesus most poetic and sensitive parables.
5. This very same poetic Jesus is also the man who could relate with and understand the fisherman. Fishermen through history have always been the tough-minded individuals, who give their respect only grudgingly. But they respected Jesus because he showed them how to fish! Jesus helped them get a big catch, enough to fill two boats.
6. Jesus was a man of many practical skills and understandings. His parables reveal a man who has a fair knowledge of agriculture, of fishing, of the weather patterns, of building. He was well versed in the Old Testament, as well as showing a familiarity with Greek philosophy. Jesus was home on the sea (during a storm at sea, he was asleep on a pillow).
7. Jesus relationship with and understanding of women was downright radical for his ear. In Israel women were not allowed in the place of worship; only men could fellowship in God's word. Jesus gave God's truth equally to men and women. He introduced the standard of equal forgiveness for men and women, as so beautifully articulated in the story of the adulteress: "He among you who is without sin, let him cast the first stone." It was women, in fact, who truly exemplified a standard of acceptance of Jesus. For example, Mary Magdalene, washing Jesus' feet with tears, the woman anointing Jesus' hair with expensive ointments, the women mourning at the cross. Women found true self through attendance to Jesus.
8. Jesus loved children and they loved him and recognized and responded naturally to his True Father's heart. "Unless you become as one of these you shall not see the kingdom."

9. Jesus was a trendsetter, not afraid of controversy. There are many examples.
10. Jesus was a compassionate, a man of many tears. The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:25, "Jesus wept."
11. Jesus was a man of prayer. There are many biblical descriptions of Jesus in prayer.

Summary: Jesus' personality is that of a True Father, sacrificial, unconditionally parental heart...truly the son of the Heavenly Father.