



# Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us

The fact that Jesus came to dwell among us is a miracle; a “God-thing” that pushed time and space aside for a special human baby to be born. To dwell among us, and not just hover over us, he had to be born, grow up, mature, and die. The only part of life he missed out on was growing old. He was killed before he could do that. That being the case, he entered into a facet of human dwelling that puzzles us the most...the death of the young, the promising, the good.

Had Jesus come on to the scene by walking out of the woods at age 33 and living to be an old man, his impact on us would have been totally different; a life and death less noticeable, no matter his achievements. But he came as a baby: vulnerable. He died as a dreamer to some, an un-armed rebel to others; both vulnerable personas. He was vulnerable and he calls us to vulnerability.

We celebrate Jesus’ vulnerability with gifts of gold and incense at his birth, but only incense at his death. Somehow the gold got discounted along the way. The vulnerability to which he calls us requires the gold of our achievement and the incense of our worship to be laid at his feet...at the foot of his manger and the foot of his cross.

Jesus’ birth calls us to protect life. Jesus’ life among us calls us to live life in service to others. Jesus’ death among us, calls us to see the ugliness of death as punishment. Jesus’ death also calls us to life, eternal life. What gifts he brings to us! They are the gifts of seeing our life through the lens of Jesus having dwelt among us and continuing to live among us. It’s a new way of seeing, a new way of living.

Jesus came to dwell among us, calling us to live lives full of truth and full of grace. Those who live the truth and grace of the gospel are knowingly stepping into great vulnerability; the vulnerability of being born again, and dying daily.

Good news! Christ is born! Interesting news: not long before he died, he said, “Follow me.” Our heartstrings are stirred.

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