

Perspectives

God with Skin On

There is a familiar story used by preachers that you may have heard in some variation. It goes like this:

One night a boy yells out to his parents, "It's dark and I am scared. Could you come in here?" The mother answered, "Don't be afraid, God loves you and is with you."

The boy replied, "I know God loves me and is with me. But I need someone with skin on!"

This quarter we will look at the birth of Jesus and snapshots from His ministry from the book of Luke. We will see that Jesus came to earth at a point in time when humanity needed to see what God looked like—to experience His presence in the flesh. John 1:13 says that Jesus, the Word, “became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jesus, God the Son, came that we would see the Father, “God with skin on”—in character, word, and action. Jesus said, “I am in the Father...The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work” (John 14:10). Jesus came to show us the Father, what the kingdom of God is like, and to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10)—making eternal life with God possible.

Jesus tasked His followers with the mission to continue His work here on earth after He was gone. That is, they were to be God with skin on in a world that needed to see and encounter God in a real way. That did not mean they were to become equal to God or become gods themselves, but they were to reflect God’s image in the things they said and did.

Today, as believers, we are to be “God(ly) with skin on” as we reach out in love to those in need, bring comfort to the hurting, encourage the downcast, and bring light to the darkness. Just as Jesus showed us the Father, we are to be Christlike to others as we live daily in obedience to God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As you read each story and contemplate each session, consider the ways you can be the hands and feet of Christ in your world.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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