

THE

# GOSPEL

BEAUTY. HORROR. LOVE. WONDER. MERCY. WRATH. GOD.

**Preaching  
the  
Gospel to  
yourself!**



**Creation**

**Fall**

**Redemption**

**Restoration**

# The Time had Fully Come for Jesus



HONTHORST, Gerrit van *Adoration of the Child* c. 1620 Oil on canvas, 96 x 131 cm  
Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence

## Matthew 1:18, 24-25

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit...

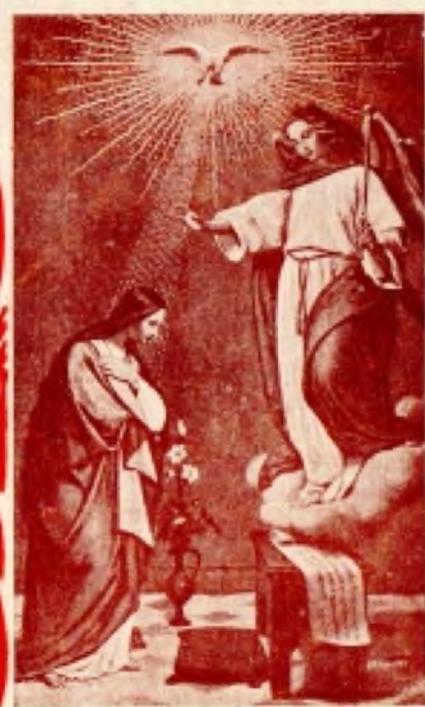
<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

# WHO ARE YOU



# The MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

Rev J.E. CANAVAN, S.J



DUBLIN: CATHOLIC TRUTH  
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## Philippians 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup>If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

## Philippians 2:1-11

<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to death —  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

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There is the transformation from deity to humanity because he set aside his omniscience, his omnipotence, his self-existence, and all of those other attributes that are proper to the nature of God.

# What *Kenosis* is not

## Kenosis Theology (late 1800s):

“The Divine Logos by His Incarnation divested Himself of His divine attributes of omniscience and omnipotence, so that in His incarnate life the Divine Person is revealed and solely revealed through a human consciousness”

~ From *‘Recent Tendencies in English Christology’* in *Mysterium Christi*, ed. Bell and Deissmann, 1930, p. 133.



# What *Kenosis* is not

“The only *emptying* this theory proves is the *emptying* of the minds of theologians who would teach such a thing as God stopping for one second to be God.”

# What *Kenosis* is not

“If God laid aside one of his attributes, the immutable undergoes a mutation, the infinite suddenly stops being infinite; it would be the end of the universe. God cannot stop being God and still be God. So we can't talk properly of God laying aside his deity to take humanity upon himself. That is why orthodox Christianity has always declared that Jesus truly man, truly God; fully man and fully God. His human nature was fully human, and his divine nature always and everywhere was fully divine.”

~ R.C. Sproul, *How Could Jesus Be Both Divine and Human?*

# What *Kenosis* is

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## 1. Jesus was/is FULLY God

### Philippians 2:6-8

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## 2. He did not hold on for his own advantage

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## 3. Gave up the comforts, status and privilege of heaven

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## 4. Took on the nature of a servant

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## 5. Added humanity

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# What *Kenosis* is

## 5. Added humanity

“Remaining what he was,  
he became what he was not.”

# What *Kenosis* is

## 6. Humbled himself

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# What *Kenosis* is

## 7. Became obedient to death

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## **Philippians 2:5**

**“Your attitude should be the same  
as that of Christ Jesus...”**

# **Gospel Applications from The Wonder of the Kenosis:**

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## **A Giving Heart**

Do you give up comfort and status for others?

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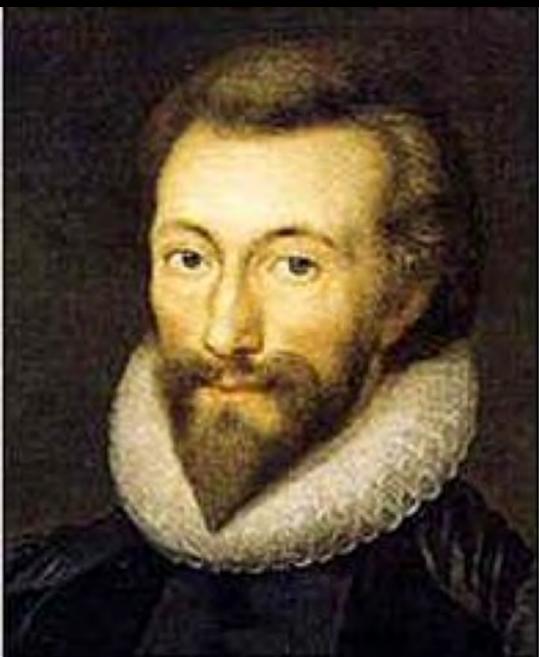
Is it all about you?

## **An Obedient Heart**

What is God calling you to do/be, or stop doing/being?

**Savor the wonder of the Incarnation!**





Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb Now  
leaves His well-beloved imprisonment, There He  
hath made Himself to His intent Weak enough  
now into our world to come. But, oh, for thee, for  
Him, hath the inn no room? Yet lay Him in this  
stall, and from the Orient Stars and wise men will  
travel to prevent The effect of Herod's jealous  
general doom. Seest thou, my soul, with thy  
faith's eyes, how He Which fills all place (yet none  
holds Him) doth lie? Was not His pity towards  
thee wondrous high, That would have need to be  
pitied by thee? Kiss Him, and with Him into  
Egypt go, With His kind mother, who partakes  
thy woe.

~ John Donne, *Nativity*