



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – December 2, 2021

The Lord be with you.

Years ago, I had a bedtime ritual with our two sons when they were little guys, where I would tuck them in bed at night, and I would close out the day saying, I love you more than the last number in the whole world, to which they would respond but Daddy, daddy, there is no last number in the whole world, to which I would respond, that's right. There is no last number in the whole world, and no end to how much I love you.

Now, when it comes to measuring love, and I love that never ends. I wanna talk with you today about God's love for you and His love for you that goes on and on and on forever. God's love is something that I'm thinking a lot about these days of Advent, these days leading up to Christmas, that God so loved the world that He gave His Son, that the Son of God became the son of man to make us sons and daughters of God. Today, I'm looking at the little New Testament Book of Philippians, chapter 2, verses 6 through 8, where I read "Jesus Christ, who was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave being, born in human likeness and being found in human form, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross."

Now, notice at this versus began with the eternal son of God, before the Son of God's creation of the universe even. It says that Jesus was in the form of God, that is, Jesus had all the glory and majesty, of God the Father, Jesus was of the same essence as God, as the Father, the same nature as a Father, Jesus was co-eternal, co-equal with God as The Eternal Only begotten Son of God. He was perfect God. Jesus was always God by nature. And so it says that Jesus in the form of God, but He did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited. That is out of love for you and me. The Son of God did not want to hold on to... He did not want to cling to His glory as God. He did not want to hold on to the divine worship belonging to him, so that it says that he emptied himself taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. That's what Christmas is about, being born in human likeness and being found in human form, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.

The Son of God out of love, stooped from the glory He had with the Father before the world began. He stooped low, taking all of our sin, all of our guilt on the cross, all of our brokenness, taking it as his very own, so that He might then share with us his life and love. This Philippians 2 text is saying that more than the son of God wanted to be God, that he wanted to give you a me. Salvation. Here is how Carl Bart, one of the greatest theologians of the 20th century, said it, "The Son of God, did not want to be God without us. He did not want to cling to his existence as God, but poured himself



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out so that we might forever share God's life and glory." Take that and chew on it for a while, that God did not want to be God without you. The Son of God did not want to hold on to the glory and majesty of the eternal Son of God without you. God so loved the world that He gave His Son. That is love far, far more than the last number in the world, it is a love for you that goes on and on and on.

Some say the universe began with the Big Bang. But actually, actually, the universe began with a big explosion of God's love, God's love that could not be contained, God's love that could not be held back, because God is love. God had to... God had to give His love to others, so that God would rather die than live without you. Look at the cross. There was a song I'd like to sing at Christmas. It's an American spiritual that comes from the poor people of Appalachia, the song was first recorded and passed down by the musicologist Jacob Niles. Perhaps you know the song. Perhaps you've sung it. "Wonder, as I wander, I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ornery people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander out under the sky"

And God's love has got me wondering. I hope it's got you wondering too, and giving thanks for a love that never ends.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening. Until next time.