

Women of the Word

IMAGE BEARERS: Made for Relationship, Worship, Holiness, Service
SIGNIFICANCE: The TRIUNE God Matters, The Incarnate SON Matters therefore WE Matter

I Introduction

SO FAR... **first:** God Himself shares His LIFE with us so we can enter *into 'relationship' with Him* as well as *the family* He is bringing together; **second:** therefore, we have the power *live truthfully*; **third:** we possess *the capability to respect God* and His creation, especially *human beings*; **fourth:** we enjoy *the capability to know and live secure* according to the written and living WORD.

II The SIGNIFICANT Christ :The Eternal SON matters! – the Doctrine of the Virgin Birth

The above attributes, shared by God with us His children, are marked indisputably in the life of the believer because of the doctrine of the incarnation at once affirms both the deity and humanity of Christ.

“If there is, among the distinctive articles of the Christian faith, one which is basic to all others, **it is this:** that our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man for our salvation.”...this means...
”...that the ***One who had His being eternally within the unity of the Godhead became man at a point in time, without relinquishing His oneness with God.*** “ (F. B. Bruce, *The Person of Christ: Incarnation and Virgin Birth*, 124,-25)

In fact, the very fact that the eternal SON became a man – the Incarnation – means that God became fully human without ceasing to be fully divine. What else would we understand John’s prologue in John 1:1-18 to say? It is the incarnation of the divine into the human when he writes in v. 14:

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw ***His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

The incarnation of the eternal SON teaches us that He, the second Adam, matters in time and space. In fact, five doctrines are a stake related to the Virgin Birth: the doctrine of Scripture (the trustworthiness of the Bible), the deity of Christ (His identity as divine), the humanity of Christ (His identity with us), the sinlessness of Christ (His impeccability), the doctrine of salvation (only the Virgin born, sinless Son of God can die for our sins and allow us to model His shared attributes). This is what makes the Son matter! It is this truth that enables both our present and future ‘sanctification’ to become a reality!

“The ultimate question is absolutely plain, even to the man on the street... it is this: Is Jesus to be worshipped or only admired? If He is God, then He is worthy of our worship, faith and obedience; if He is not God, then to give Him such devotion is idolatry.” (John Stott, *Authentic Christianity*, 35)

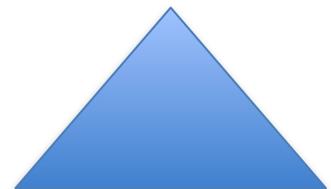
III SIGNIFICANCE: (The Lord Jesus Christ matters hence, we matter!

1. The CONTEXT of SIGNIFICANCE : **the quality** of being worthy of attention and importance; meaning to be found and known to matter in words, events, people.

a. The ETERNAL Son in Relationship within the Trinity

The Son matters to the Father (Col. 1:19; 2:9)

The Father matters to the Son (John 14:7-11; John 14:23; Rom 8:28)



The Spirit matters to the Father matters to the Spirit

(John 14:25, 26) Rom. 8:14-17, 22)

The Father matters to the Spirit

(John 14:26; Rom. 8:3, 4, 26, 27)

The Son matters to the Spirit (John 14:26; Rom. 8:1, 2, 9; 2 Cor. 3:18)

The Spirit matters to the Son (John 14:16-18)

They _____ to each other because of WHO they are in _____ to the other. Their relationship is eternally _____.

b. The INCARNATE Son in Relationship to His sheep, friends, children...

The Father matters to the children (John 17:6-10)

The children matter to the Father (John 17:11, 12; Rom 8:28)

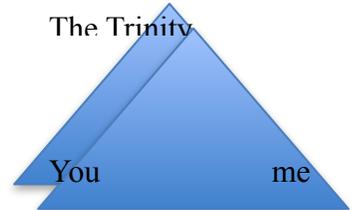
The Spirit matters to the children (John 14)

The children matter to the Spirit: (Romans 8:6, 26, 27)

The children matter to the Son (John 14:1-3; 12-14)

The Son matters to the children (John 14:15, 21)

True believers _____ to the Triune God. Because we matter to Him, we necessarily _____ to each other. Our relationships to one another are _____ inclusive. We _____ our _____ relationships – they are eternally _____.



IV Significance: The joy of *humility: others matter more.*

1. Man's _____ in creation is established by God, not man. Man is _____ to God for his behavior. His actions _____ (Gen. 2, Ps. 8)
2. The _____ of Christ establishes the model of significance for believers!
He did not empty of His deity; *He laid aside His glory* and emptied Himself by *taking on the form of a bond-servant - being made in the likeness of men, He submitted to the will of the Father.* (John 1:1-18; Phil. 2:1-11)
3. The _____ by God of 'intimate and careful shaping of a human being' means man's _____ matters to God and others. (Psalm 139)
4. The _____ of believers together in the unity of Christ's body to live _____ in the middle of a crooked and _____ generation, _____ as lights in the world, _____ the Word of life because the Word _____. (Phil. 2:14-18)
5. The _____ of the church by the head of the Body, the Lord Jesus Christ, has been _____ to believers in time and eternity when He will _____ the dust of our mortal bodies, into an _____ body like the resurrection body of Christ Jesus. Believers' bodies matter! (1 Cor. 15)

CONCLUSION: God matters, His people matter; you and I are significant in the plan of God.

Psalm 8: The Lord's Glory and Man's Dignity in the Present. Significance of the Lord and all humanity.

For the choir director; on the Gittith. A Psalm of David.

1 O Lord, our Lord, **How majestic is Your name in all the earth,**

Who have displayed **Your splendor** above the heavens!

2 From the mouth of infants and nursing babes **You have established strength**

Because of Your adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.

3 When I consider **Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,**

The moon and the stars, which You **have ordained;**

4 What is man that **You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?**

5 Yet **You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!**

6 **You make him to rule over the works of Your hands;** You have put all things under his feet,

7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field,

8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

9 **O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

Psalm 2 The Future Reign of the Lord's Anointed. Humanity is significant in future.

1 Why are **the nations in an uproar** And **the peoples** devising a vain thing?

2 **The kings of the earth** take their stand And **the rulers take counsel** together

Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

3 **“Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!”**

4 **He** who sits in the heavens **laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.**

5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying,

6 **“But as for me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”**

7 **“I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.**

8 **‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.**

9 **‘You shall break them with a [h]rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”**

10 Now therefore, O kings, **show discernment; Take warning,** O judges of the earth.

11 **Worship the Lord** with [!]reverence And rejoice with trembling.

12 **Do homage to the Son,** that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Psalm 139: God's intimate and personal interaction proves humanity worth and significance. For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

1 O Lord, **You have searched me and known me.**

2 **You know** when I sit down and when I rise up; **You understand** my thought from afar.

3 **You scrutinize my path** and my lying down, And are intimately **acquainted with all my ways.**

4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, **You know it all.**

5 **You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.**

6 *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

7 **Where can I go** from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, **You are there;** If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, **You are there.**

9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

10 **Even there Your hand will lead me,** And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,”

12 Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are alike to You I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

Deuteronomy 32 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Song of Moses

32

1 “Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.

2 “Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew,

As the droplets on the fresh grass And as the showers on the herb.

3 “For I proclaim the name of the Lord; Ascribe greatness to our God!

4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just;

A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

5 “They have acted corruptly toward Him, *They are* not His children, because of their defect;

But are a perverse and crooked generation.

6 **“Do you thus repay the Lord, O foolish and unwise people?**

Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.

7 **“Remember** the days of old, **Consider** the years of all generations.

Ask your father, and he will inform you, Your elders, and they will tell you.

8 “When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel.

9 “For the Lord’s portion is His people Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. *****

10 “He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness;

He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.

11 “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young,

He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions.

12 “The Lord alone guided him, And there was no foreign god with him.

13 “He made him ride on the high places of the earth, And he ate the produce of the field;

And He made him suck honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock,

14 Curds of cows, and milk of the flock, With fat of lambs, And rams, the breed of Bashan, and goats, With the finest of the wheat, And of the blood of grapes you drank wine.

15 “But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked—You are grown fat, thick, and sleek—

Then he forsook God who made him, And scorned the Rock of his salvation.

16 “They made Him jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger.

17 “They sacrificed to demons who were not God, To gods whom they have not known, New gods who came lately, Whom your fathers did not dread.

18 “You neglected the Rock who begot you, And forgot the God who gave you birth.

19 “The Lord saw *this*, and spurned *them* Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters.

20 “Then He said, ‘I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end *shall be*;

For they are a perverse generation, Sons in whom is no faithfulness.

21 ‘They have made Me jealous with *what* is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their [e]idols.

So I will make them jealous with *those who* are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,

22 For a fire is kindled in My anger, And burns to the lowest part of Sheol,

And consumes the earth with its yield, And sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

23 ‘I will heap misfortunes on them; I will use My arrows on them.

24 ‘*They will be* wasted by famine, and consumed by plague and bitter destruction;

And the teeth of beasts I will send upon them, With the venom of crawling things of the dust.

25 ‘Outside the sword will bereave, And inside terror—

Both young man and virgin, The nursling with the man of gray hair.

26 ‘I would have said, ‘I will cut them to pieces, I will remove the memory of them from men,’

27 Had I not feared the provocation by the enemy, That their adversaries would misjudge,

That they would say, ‘Our hand is triumphant, And the Lord has not done all this.’”

28 “For they are a nation lacking in counsel, And there is no understanding in them.

29 “Would that they were wise, that they understood this, That they would discern their future!

30 “How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight,

Unless their Rock had sold them, And the Lord had given them up?

31 “Indeed their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves judge this.

32 “For their vine is from the vine of Sodom, And from the fields of Gomorrah;

Their grapes are grapes of poison, Their clusters, bitter.

33 “Their wine is the venom of serpents, And the deadly poison of cobras.

34 ‘Is it not laid up in store with Me, Sealed up in My treasures?

35 ‘Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In due time their foot will slip;

For the day of their calamity is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them.’

36 “For the Lord will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants,

When He sees that *their* strength is gone, And there is none *remaining*, bond or free.

37 “And He will say, ‘Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge?’

38 ‘Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, *And* drank the wine of their drink offering?

Let them rise up and help you, Let them be your hiding place!

39 ‘See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me;

It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal,

And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

40 ‘Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, And say, as I live forever,

41 If I sharpen My flashing sword, And My hand takes hold on justice,

I will render vengeance on My adversaries, And I will repay those who hate Me.

42 ‘I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword will devour flesh,

With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.’

43 “Rejoice, O nations, *with* His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will render vengeance on His adversaries, And will atone for His land *and* His people.”

44 Then Moses came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he, with [q]Joshua the son of Nun.

45 When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, 46 he said to them, “**Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, *even* all the words of this law.**

47 For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life.

And by this word you will prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

48 The Lord spoke to Moses that very same day, saying,

49 “Go up to this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab opposite Jericho, and look at the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession. 50 **Then die on the mountain where you ascend, and be gathered to your people**, as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, 51 **because you broke faith with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel.**

52 **For you shall see the land at a distance**, but you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving the sons of Israel.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Four types of individuals can be found in the passages printed above: Psalm 8, Psalm 2, Psalm 139 and Deuteronomy 32. All four passages are ‘songs’ – three from the Hymnal of Israel and one from the OT Deliverer of Israel. Look for the four individuals in the songs: God Himself, kings of the nations, unbelievers (disobedient) and believers – those who receive the promises.
2. What is significant about God in these passages? Why does He matter?
3. What is significant about the kings of the earth? What is significant about their life on earth? In what way do they matter to God? To other inhabitants of the earth?
4. What is significant about those who are unbelievers? Why do they matter to God? What is significant about their unbelief or unwillingness to bow before the Lord? NOTE: In Dt. 32, Moses reminds the Israelite nation in his song of God’s promises given to her as a nation, her wandering away from her God into idolatry and her final return to the Lord who will bless her.
5. What is significant about those who are known to be believers? Why do they matter?
6. Why do you matter to God? Why do you matter to those in the body of Christ? To those in your family? in your neighborhood?
6. What significant part do you play as a Christ follower who is ‘working out her own salvation with fear and trembling as God works in you’ and why does it matter that ‘you (we) do all things without grumbling or disputing?’ as Paul teaches in Phil. 2:14-16?