

GOD UNDERSTANDS YOU: THE PROMISE OF GOD THROUGH THE MANGER

God's Promise: "Our High Priest understands our weaknesses."

Hebrews 4:15

My Promise

I will draw close to God trusting that He hears me and understands me.

What does the manger have to do with the upcoming Easter season? The manger and Easter have many things in common. Both have to do with the tangible that is God. Christ's incarnation has its beginning in the manger and its culmination with Easter (Holy Week). It is precisely the fact that God became flesh that we can have the assurance that He "understands our weaknesses." From our very first cry when we entered into the world as babies, until the last breath when we leave this world, as we do so, He understands us.

Thanks to the Lord, in the humanity of Jesus we can draw close to Him. This is what happened when Jesus entered into Jerusalem, on that day that we identify as "palm Sunday". God was literally in the middle of the multitude. That multitude was anxious and wanted to be close to the Savior. The miraculous part was not that multitude came out to receive Jesus, but that Jesus drew close to them. Before them was the High Priest that was going to redeem them once and for all.

Bible Reading: Hebrews 10:19-23

A DIRECT ACCESS - Hebrews 10:19-20

What happened from the Manger to Easter was literally a direct access between God and us. For the writer of Hebrews, this results in a "freedom of entry." When Jesus came to this world, it was with the specific purpose of creating access. No more hurdles or distances. In Christ we have the opportunity of knowing that God identifies with us exclusively by a miraculous act. He became human. His flesh is the "vale" that before separated human beings from the presence of God. Something happened. That vale was opened completely. The obstructed access was now converted into an open road. At this time that points to the culmination of the sacrifice of Christ, we can see something special. We literally see God in action. In Jesus they saw the loving Father. Why is this important? We can now draw close to Him as many times as we need to.

LET US CONFIDENTLY DRAW NEAR TO HIM - Hebrews 10:21-22

Now that we are completely sure that Jesus really understands us, we can draw close to Him. His entrance into our lives causes that we have these benefits:

1. – Complete assurance of faith - 22b – There is no better manifestation of knowing that He understands us than having complete faith that He understands us. There is nothing that we can say to Him that He does not already know what we are going through. I feel weak? He understands that. I feel tired? He knows what that is. I feel anguish? He went through anguish. I feel like crying? He also cried. This gives me complete assurance of drawing close to Him, trusting that He will console me, will strengthen me, and will give me new strength.

2. Purifying our hearts of a bad conscience - 22c – What cleans our hearts? The blood of Jesus. Yes! The blood that He shed on the cross. He was born in a manger, but on the cross, He bled so that my conscience would be cleaned in such a way that I now have direct access to His mercy. It was no longer the blood of animals. Now it was the blood of the Lamb of God. That is the miracle of His incarnation. Why? Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins! Thank the Lord for His precious blood!

3. Washed with pure water - 22d – The writer refers to the baptism of the believer in this phrase. The act of baptism is an external evidence of an internal work. Jesus's incarnation is necessary in order for an internal transformation of our state of condemnation. We should not faint. We have been washed on the outside and inside. That is the benefit of the birth and crucifixion of Jesus. Spirit, Soul, and Body are affected by the redeeming work of Jesus. I am free on the inside and outside!

KEEP FIRM - Hebrews 10:23

Now our firmness is not only in our faith (according to verse 22) but it is in our hope. Why hope? God fulfilled His promise in coming to live within us in corporal form. The Christ who was born, lived among us and went to Calvary for us. He is the same who now offers an unshakeable hope. He is now at the right hand of the Father interceding for you and me and He is doing it not asking anything in return. He does it with all mercy because He went through exactly what we are going through on a daily basis with our battles and burdens.

Many rejected Him and did not receive Him. Today there are millions of people receive Him for what

He is, our Lord and Savior.

“Faithful is He who promised” is the seal of this promise. The people recognized Jesus as the Messiah this Palm Sunday. Today we recognize His as the God who fulfills His promises.

Let us celebrate and draw close to Him, confidently!