

## Luke 6:12-16    **JESUS & HIS DISCIPLES**

PRELIMS. We normally focus on Jesus when we have communion. We will look at Him and His disciples tonight.

### JESUS' HUMANITY

Jesus was human – in **every single sense** imaginable (except sin!) It was **not** the Father who became incarnate; it was **not** the Holy Spirit; it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Godhead who became incarnate “*the Word became flesh*” [J1:14]

He took the same **anatomy**, the same **physique**, the same **central nervous system**, the same **genetic composition** with a **specific code** for Himself alone; the same **human psychology**! Every sense a man, with all the **limitations** of manhood! There is a danger of us **minimising** Jesus humanness!

X's mind, as his body, was like your's and mine, it had **limits**! If His human mind was not **finite** – He would not be **truly** human! Jesus had **mental struggles**! Just like you and I! Because He did not have **full knowledge** of everything! (Eg Did not know the time of His own return “*of that day no one knows...not the angels...neither the Son*” [Mar 13:32] + “*a fig tree...He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it*” [Mar 11:13]. His mind had to **gather information** by reading, hearing, storing, retrieving, organising, deciding on a conclusion! X's humanity was **not omniscient**!

Now **X operated** on earth on the human level – not the Divine! He did **not** (although He could have), as we can do with our computers, change from one programme to another at a touch of a key; ie X did **not** change from **Human mode to Divine mode** whenever it suited Him. The power He exercised was as a result of being **filled with the Spirit**, which in turn was as result of His **obedience** and **close walk** with His Heavenly Father. The **source** of X's power was not from His deity but from His **dependence on the Holy Spirit**. “*Jesus returned in*

*the power of the Spirit to Galilee*”[L4:14] The **uniqueness** of X’s power is the result of His **uniqueness** of **obedience** to the Father. He was the **only human** to obey God **perfectly!** He **never grieved** the Spirit!

In the **same way**, you/I can acquire tremendous answers to prayer, wonderful experiences, **extra-ordinary** strength, yes and power to perform **miracles**. *“If you **have** faith like a grain of mustard seed you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’, and it will move”* [Mat 17:20]. It is the **presence** of the Spirit that causes this power—and He had that *“above measure”* – so could you/I do **according to the measure of faith!**

X did **not live** in a **sheltered environment** – far away in a corner where the evil of sin did not enter. No, His world was like your’s/mine, filled with bad people, who swear, lie, and commit adultery, who rape, hit their wives, kill/murder. He saw the poverty/squalor of humanity; he saw the results of sin, the disease, the broken hearts, broken homes, broken children!

\*We read Jesus *“**went out to the mountain to pray**”*[12] He **felt** His **need** of prayer! He **decided** to pray – He came to that **conclusion** after some thought! And He *“continued **all night** in prayer to God”*[12] Now **why** would the Son of God spend all night in prayer? Ans: Because of the **importance** of the **business** He had! What was that? **Choosing** 12 disciples! *“And when day came, He called His disciples and **chose from them twelve** whom He named apostles”*[13] In making decisions Jesus prayed about it. Even although He was perfect in obedience, a light did not shine spelling out their names, or a voice did not sound telling their names! No, the Son of God had to pray **all night** about it – to find out the mind of the Father in heaven! Then He had to **interpret** the answer as you and I have to ‘read’ God’s answer to us!

**APP** How much more you/I have to spend time in prayer when making important decisions?

## JESUS & the TWELVE

I believe Jesus **wrestled** about **every** one of these twelve He chose, mentioning them by name, mentioning their faults, and gifts/talents, looking for guidance from His Father!

Because His humanity did **not see** into the **heart** of all those before Him - He **had** to ask His Father about them! He **dare not** choose one without His Father's permission! Oh that you and I were so **conscientious** about the decisions we make!! When we come to make plans for this Church?

**Simon Peter** – He was ‘saved’ no doubt, but what about his **temperament**? One minute sitting with Greeks , next with the ‘Heavies’ from Jerusalem! **Impulsive!** He was weak in company, ashamed of Jesus before 12yr old girl! Yet, he was the **first among the disciples!** Jesus still chooses such!

**Andrew?** Peter's brother! He was different. He kept out of things! He never said anything – but he was always present at every meeting. He never missed a meeting with Jesus. (A good example to those careless about the attendance on the means of grace!) Jesus still chooses quiet ones!

**James and John?** Two other brothers? People might think grace runs in the family blood? Perhaps that's why Jesus said *“flesh and blood has not revealed this to you”* in front of the Twelve! Oh then the sociologists will say ‘its your background, its your family upbringing that makes you a Xn, not the Holy Spirit. How lovely that Jesus still calls families together!

**Philip?** He was a Greek! What will the Jews think of a Greek among the Messiah's chosen 12? Will He be subjected to unnecessary Jewish harassment? The Father replies ‘No, My Son, it will be a good introduction to prepare them for the Gentiles coming in!’ God still chooses ‘outsiders’!

**Bartholomew (Nathaniel)? Prejudiced** against the Nazarenes

and doubted if the Messiah could come out of Nazareth? “*Can any good thing come out...*” But “*an Israelite indeed*”

**Matthew (Levi)?** Tax-collector with the Inland Revenue! ‘You know the problem Zacchaeus has being accepted by the people? Can Matthew cope with the harassment? He’s an excellent administrator and they are in short supply. We need that type? He’s very **hospitable** (what a lovely dinner he gave us all when he was first converted – and he asked all the Pharisees to attend too!) Yes, there’s a place for all types of workers, policemen, electricians, bus drivers, IT folk, the lot!

What about the **pessimist** ‘I’ll believe it when I see it’ **Thomas the Doubter?** Surely not? The good thing about Thomas was that when he **did** see it, he believed and **confessed!** There are those who see and don’t believe. Yes, he has a part to play also!

**Judas son of James** (also called Thaddaeus & Lebbaus). He says “*How is it that You will manifest Yourself to the world?*”[J14:22] – perhaps wanting Jesus to get into the **limelight!** He would be for **more publicity** and would want to **promote** the faith! Yes, we need that kind too!

**Simon the Zealot** (or Kanaanite, a **sect** not a place)? A strong headed **nationalist!** Ian Paisley/Jack Glass! Extreme! ‘Father, will their zeal be counter-productive? Will they retard the progress already made?’ ‘No. He has the root of the matter!

**Judas Iscariot?** A **mystery!** We do not really know why he was chosen. But Judas was the **obvious** choice for treasurer!?’ ‘Yes, I want the world to have the **testimony** from the **betrayed** himself, that he “*betrayed innocent blood*”[Mat 27:4]

**APP** How wonderful to know that as believers, Jesus **wrestled** in prayer for **each one of us** here taking the Supper here today! “*Christ Jesus ...who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us*” [Rom 8:34]

## EXPLANATION

The Lord's Supper, is **gift** to God's people to **strengthen** and **help** them on their Christian way. It is **not** for those who do **not believe** in God or Jesus Christ. It is not for those who **despise** the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures! It is to help God's people to be **more committed** and more **faithful** to the Lord.

It is **not** for **unbelievers** or those who **deny** Christ's Person/Work. **Not** for those who say Jesus is **not** the **only** way to heaven, or for those who **deny** His **work** of **atonement** on the Cross! It is not for those who blatantly **oppose** the gospel and live a profligate life.

The Lord's Supper is a **feeding** and **strengthening** ordinance. It is **not** simply a **remembrance** service. It is that, but it is **primarily** for the **increase** of **grace** because we are actually feeding on Christ.

It **is** for those who **love** the Lord, who have **surrendered** their lives to Him as Lord. For those who **realize** their need to be 'in Christ', and have come to see that Jesus Christ is indeed the **Saviour** of the world – the **only** Saviour in the world of sinners!

It is for those who have constant **communion/fellowship** with Him in prayer and meditation. It is for those who **consult** Him, who **follow** His ways and do their utmost to **please** Him.

It is for those who **daily confess** and **repent** of their sins to God and seek forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

**Read – Romans: 3:21-24½**

**1 Cor 6:9-11**

**Gal 3:10-14**

**READ APOSTLE'S CREED! Congregation please Stand**

## **Sing Psalm of Praise**

### **Read – 1 Cor 11:23-26**

**Prayer** “...set apart from a common to a holy use, such as of the bread and wine that will be used in this sacrament...”

**Before the Eating – 1 Peter 2:4,5,9 – Comment on:** *“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”*

**After the Supper – Hebrews 10:35-36-39 – Comment on:** *“Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised....we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls”*

## **Sing Psalm of Praise**