

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for You are with me." {Psalm 235}

Luke 23:39-47

Day 5

Fast forward to the 1950s. Almost every boy wanted to be Mickey Mantle and every girl wanted to marry him. He was the young, strong, handsome, center-fielder for the New York Yankees. Mickey loved to have fun and he drank too much. Way too soon, alcohol brought him to his deathbed in a hospital in Dallas.

Teammate Bobby Richardson had witnessed to him through the years, trying to get him to accept Christ, all to no avail. Bobby went to see him in Dallas to try again but before he could say anything, Mickey smiled and said, "Bobby, I have accepted Jesus. I am a Christian."

When Bobby got back to the hotel room, he told his wife and she found it difficult to believe and went to see for herself. She asked Mickey if he was sure he was going to heaven and he flashed that big Oklahoma smile and quoted John 3:16:

"For God so loved Mickey Mantle that He gave his only begotten son so if Mickey Mantle believes (believes in and puts his trust) in him He will never perish but will have eternal life."

Philippians 2:5-11

Day 6

Hebrews 11: 1-3

"In all kinds of ways God spoke in olden times to our ancestors. {The OT} / But in these last days He has spoken to us in the person of His Son. / He is the outward expression of the inner glory of God. / He is the exact image of God's nature." {*Amplified Bible}

Christ 7-8 /14-18

His Divinity In seminary I was reading through the OT for the first time and was disturbed when I read where God ordered people to kill entire villages (men women and children). I just could not square that with God being a God of love. I began praying and searching for answers, but before I did, I drew a cross {+} at

the top of the page and wrote, "*I don't care what this says, I still believe God is love.*"

I don't have to tell you the Old Testament is hard to understand. That is why, 2000 years ago, God left the broadcast station, became a human being and lived with us for 33 years. He is fully God and fully human at the same time.

This, like everything else about our Creator, is a mystery we cannot begin to understand, we have to take it by faith saying:

"I know not how Bethlehem's Babe / Can in the God-head be / I only know this little Child / Has brought God down to me

Once we believe the Creator is a person Who brought this universe into existence out of nothing, we should have no problem believing He could become a human being. (1 Tim. 3:16)

The OT said the coming one would be called, "**Mighty God**" and "**Everlasting Father**" (Isa. 9:6). Jesus assumed the rights of God to forgive sins (Mk. 2:5); to be the coming judge all men, etc. (Mt. 25). He accepted the worship of Thomas when he said to him, "**My Lord and my God!**" (Jn. 20:28). If He was not God; this was blasphemy (Acts 14:14-15).

The NT writers call Him God. John calls him the creator (Jn. 1:2). Paul says of His return, "**We wait for the / appearing of our God and Savior Jesus Christ**" (Titus 2:13). Talking about God Paul told pastors to shepherd the church of God "**which He (God) 'purchased with His own blood'**" (Acts 20).

Heb. 2:14-18; 4:14-16; 5:7-8 Day 7

C. S. Lewis reminds us we cannot say Jesus was a good man but not God. A good man, he says, does not claim to have no sin; to have the right to forgive sins on behalf of God and to be the coming Judge all men, He says,

"Call him a fool; or a charlatan; but do not call him a good man if you do not call him God. That is one option He has not left us." Josh McDowell