

What Jesus Left Behind

Most every Christian knows that the Son of God changed a lot when he came to earth. We know that “the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us”. (Jn 1:14) What is not often clear is everything that was involved in this change. In order to come and be one of us Jesus had to leave much behind. In this chapter we will consider what he gave up to become one of us. This was not some kind of an act that he put on while he was with us. He actually changed to become one of us. When we begin to understand how much he left behind in heaven with the Father, we become even more overcome with the greatness of his love and of the Father’s love for us and we begin to realize our own possibilities as believers.

The Three Omnies

In order to become one of us Jesus gave up three of the most important characteristics of God. I call these The Three Omnies; Omni-presence, Omni-potence, and Omni-science. When these words are divided in this way, it is easier to understand them. The prefix “Omni” simply means “All” or “Completely”. God is All-present, or everywhere at the same time. In order for Jesus to become one of us he had to give this up for 33 years to live in time and space with human beings. This is obvious because he took a localized body like every human being has. He could only be in the place where that body was located. He got this body from his mother Mary. It was a body like her body, a human body. When Jesus gave up one Omni, he also had to give up the other two. Omni-potence means to be all powerful. Jesus gave up his all powerful ability to become a man. His heavenly Father retained his power and the Holy Spirit kept his also, but Jesus gave his up for those 33 years. Omni-science means to know all things. Jesus also gave this up to become a man and the gospels are full of examples of things that he did not know. For instance, the time of his return (Matt. 24:36), who touched him when he was in the crowd (Luke 8:45), and the location of Lazarus’ body (John 11:34).

Some may ask, “How is this possible? What you are and what you have are yours, unless you become disabled in some way.” Jesus did not become disabled in the sense of getting sick or old or infirm. God the Son in agreement with the Father and the Holy Spirit has the ability to give up anything he wants by a simple act of his will. This is not a pretend giving up but a real parting with these abilities. Exactly because he is God, he can do things that we cannot do. Why did he do this? His reason for doing this, giving all this up for a time, is his great love for his people. It is not because he failed or became weak but because he loves us so much. “But,” someone might also ask, “what about the things Jesus did do and know that were supernatural? After all, he was able to do and to know things that must have used the very powers that you are saying that he left behind in order to become a man.” Those things which Jesus did which were obviously supernatural, he did by the power of the Holy Spirit. These days we call such things the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit which are given to the body of Christ on earth, the believers. Jesus did these wonderful things as a man by the power of the Holy Spirit just as he expects us to do them today.