



Prayergram®

July-August 2025



The Humanity of Jesus

“... Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.”

We are created in the likeness of God with the ability to do human things such as love and care. The current dilemma is that there are many individuals or beings, but not enough human beings exhibiting true humanity. Jesus was completely human and lived among us. As Christians sometimes we tend to forget the humanity of Jesus and how He lived His life on earth. He did not carry an appointment book, and his life was open to anyone seeking assistance. What does it mean to be a human in a world of robots! It means we do everything in our reach by making ourselves accessible to those who need our help. Being a servant of Jesus is more than giving out spiritual formulas, or preaching great sermons, or having marketing skills. It is about being a kind and caring person.

Greatness of men is determined by the humble life they live, the sacrifice they make, and the service they provide for humanity. When I feel inundated with pride and arrogance, I take a memorable journey to the hill of Golgotha—quietly, privately, reverently, and soon I will be on my knees. The renewal of humility begins at Golgotha where the meek One died, from there it will spread the world over. To me, humility is true worship. **King Louie** the 9th was a humble believer. He was living in an apartment near a beautiful cathedral in Paris. A servant woke him in the night, exclaiming, “Come and see, Christ has appeared in the Sanctuary.” King Louie replied, “I believe and love Him with all my heart, even without seeing Him.” Jesus said to Thomas, “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29). The presence of Christ assures us we are never alone. He is always with us and involved in every part of our lives. We are precious in His sight, and all our affairs are under His care. We are what we are in Christ, and we don’t need any image makers or media consultants. We don’t have to ride on someone’s coattail. Those who are aware of the frailties of human life take no credit in the praises of men. Dear brothers and sisters, when the world showers us with praises and accolades, watch out!

Words do not satisfy human craving; but a life lived in obedience, humility and purity gives stability to the mind. It is very hard to defeat or overcome a person who practices humility because quiet humility often brings quiet strength. **Several years ago, I was introduced to a man who touched my life, and I will never forget him. I saw my Savior when I met this village pastor in Nigeria, whose spirit of humility left an indelible mark on my life. He was radiant with the presence of the One “who though he was rich, for our sake became poor.” My new friend was so serene, yet so wise; so humane and humble, yet so strong in his faith. As I left that village Pastor, I felt as though I was leaving behind someone who was very special and real. Whatever we do, whatever we say, let’s never forget the humility of Jesus, and it is in His humanity that we touch the hand that touches the world in love.**

In Jehovah's presence, we recognize our spiritual poverty and abandon all our pride. We all need to come up to the level of that village pastor in Nigeria. Christians must live more humanely that the world may see the humanity of Jesus. Today, for all our discussions on religious growth, and superior marketing skills, something is noticeably absent, the humility of Jesus. We invoke His name but overlook His humanity. We are admonished in the Scriptures, "...not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..." (Romans 12:3). **Thomas A. Kempis**, a 14th century Christian and the author of the classic book, "The Imitation of Christ" wrote, **"The highest and most useful lesson is to truly know yourself and to think humbly of yourself. Making nothing of yourself and always having a good opinion of others is great wisdom and perfection."** "...Be not wise in your own conceits" (Romans 12:16). People who have experienced forgiveness tend to think less of themselves and do not place much confidence in their flesh. Man is a conceited being, and only through the grace of God, he can be brought under the cleansing blood of the Lamb. Lucifer, referred to as the son of the morning star, serves as an exemplary illustration of human pride and conceit. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12). Lucifer's pride led to his downfall, punished by the Almighty. There is a little bit of Lucifer's spirit in all of us.

Soren Kierkegaard, a 19th century Danish Philosopher, Poet and Christian author who said, "Man is a creature of duplicity and doubt." He believed that humans struggle with unfulfilled hopes and passions. However, Jesus satisfies the deepest desires of our hearts. I believe Christians can impact the world by simply following the teachings of our Lord. **Thomas Carlyle**, the 18th century Scottish poet was wise when he said, **"Holy living is the best argument that tells for God in an age of fact."** We cannot reach others by human bravado or 'know it all' attitude. The work of the Lord is not a human endeavor; it is the Spirit of the living God working through obedient and humble vessels. People today don't need more theological lectures as much as they need practical lessons on Christ-centered living!

Christianity must become a force, a force of love and compassion in a hate-filled world; a force of kindness and humility in a self-centered and arrogant world; a force of optimism and faith where men and women live by doubt and fear. As Christians, we should engage our culture humanely with truth and mercy. In Biblical evangelism, we seek no superiority, no honor for ourselves, and always behave in the way our beloved Lord taught us through His Word. "Learn from me; for I am meek and humble in heart." Whenever we suffer from the malady of inhumanity, we simply need to look at Jesus, our example in all things.

Being a Christian is more than wearing a label; it is a life that is lived in obedience to God's will. We achieve our creative purpose not by accident but by design. It is God who gives direction, purpose and meaning to our mortal existence. Whether we like it or not, we are all leaving tracks or footprints. Let's make sure our tracks lead others to Christ! Remember, "Examples are better than precepts." To become more humane, people must come to know the humanity of Jesus, and it is in His humanity we see the loving and caring heart of God. **Someone has wisely said, "Ego is something that we all possess but no one wants to admit it."**

--- Matthew Skariah

Intercession and Evangelism Connection

If one cannot go to a mission field as a missionary, he or she can stay home intercede and 'hold' the rope and hold it well! When God moves, it always begins with prayer. I believe the Lord is

moving the world over in ways beyond our comprehension, and evangelism should be the order of the day. Once we experience true evangelism through the moving of the Spirit of God, we must change our mission concept. We need our brothers and sisters more than they need us. Our Christian brothers and sisters who live in faraway land where they are being persecuted for their faith in Christ, and yet they trust in God with an undying faith. They are loving, simple, and unpretentious, showing great loyalty and devotion to Christ. When they speak about their Savior, they speak in glowing terms, and they manage to keep things positive and look for everything that is worthy of praise and thanksgiving. They have so little of the world's goods, yet they possess so much in the Lord. What is the grand secret here; it's undying love, true devotion, pure faith, and of course undaunted courage!

It's no exaggeration to say that time is running out and our Lord could return at any moment. Let us face it—not everyone has a burden for the lost! Some folks would rather concentrate on getting a blessing from God instead of being a blessing. Some talk of the importance of soul-winning but never participate in the process of sharing the gospel when opportunity calls. We are all familiar with the phrase, “Strike while the iron is hot,” and “time waits for no man.” Oswald J. Smith, founder of the Peoples Church of Toronto, Canada and a great soul-winner was clear when he said, **“Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist.”** I know most of us cannot go. Since we cannot go, let us hold the rope and hold it well. May we long to hear the words of our Lord, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:21).

I know there are many prayer warriors, the quiet followers who serve God unobtrusively, yet faithfully, and delightfully, take their intercession for others seriously with a loving heart. Although their efforts may go unnoticed by the world, they are seen and known by God. Their reward is not worldly recognition, wealth, or fame, but the ‘joy divine.’ This joy is not derived from constant religious activities, but from quiet, consistent, and faithful prayer and intercession carried out daily in solitude. Let's agonize deeply for those who perish without Jesus! Are we connecting individuals into an organization or ministry, or are we guiding them to a loving Savior who cares deeply for a troubled and lost world? Christians should always show love and care. Jesus did not succumb to His own sorrow; He took on everyone's burdens, drank their bitter cup, and sacrificed Himself on the Cross. The Cross is the greatest symbol of love on earth.

Believing prayers of God's faithful remnant have proven to be a powerful weapon in the battle for the souls of men and women. The mark of a praying Christian is that he exhibits an undeniable trust and confidence in his Lord and Master that nothing can shake or alter.

May we respond to the Master's call, **“At any cost, dear Lord, at any means, by any road.”**

Bible: Our Moral Guide

The Bible alone can provide the ‘moral and spiritual’ foundation for our nation, and that is God's truth. No nation can survive without a moral compass no matter how powerful she may appear economically or technologically. **The profound words of Fulton Oursler, one of America's foremost journalists, come to mind, “The complete textbook for our moral behavior is the Holy Bible, all criticism notwithstanding.”** When we abandon biblical principles, we abandon the foundation of our faith. We live in a world of changing culture, lust for power. Pseudo intellectualism, health and wealth theology, suitable morality, and a so-called religion that caters to every whim and fancy of man. Is it any wonder that the modern church is scrambling for a viable message for our changing generation?

In times of crisis, people seek guidance from the Bible. However, neglecting it as a source of spiritual instruction can lead to decline. **May we give adherence to the immortal words of Daniel Webster, America's foremost orator, "If we abide by the laws that are taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering, but when we go against God's revealed Word, no man can tell what sudden catastrophe may overwhelm us!"** A godly life requires biblical soundness and a pursuit of holiness. I know some evangelical Christians who cringe when they hear the word holiness. Why would God ask us to be holy if He is not serious about it? **He said, "Be ye holy: for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).** The very presence of Jesus provokes us to action, either to receive Him in all His glory or reject Him in our utter rebellion.

Have we ever been provoked by God? What would we do if Jesus walks into our Church service next Sunday morning? Would we be shaking His hand or would we be falling on our knees worshipping Him? A Christian is a supernatural being who has had a supernatural experience with the living God. The words of Robert Murray McChesney, the anointed preacher of Dundee, Scotland, **"Lord, make me as holy as a saved sinner can be."** St. Thomas Aquinas was precise when he said, **"Holiness is the easiest thing to accomplish because God wills it."** If we are honest with God and ourselves, we need to admit that we desperately need and want a 'morally charged' and cleansing revival. Revival has a way of cleansing the nation as it happened under King Jehoshaphat of Judah. America is overdue for such a revival. Let us pray with Charles Wesley, the 17th century English hymn writer, **"We need the merit of thy cleansing blood every moment."** It seems revival has become a thing of the past because **it doesn't go along with the current evangelical narrative!** The spirit of revival keeps us from fluttering about our daily walk with God.

--- Matthew Skariah

REVIVAL with Matthew Skariah

September 7-12

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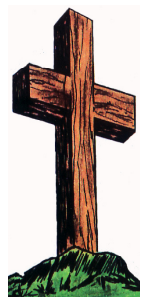
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