

Beloved Human

(sermon #3 Beloved series)

John 2:13-22

May the words of my mouth and the meditations in our

hearts be acceptable and suitable in your sight, Oh

Lord, our rock, our strength and our redeemer. Amen

My third sermon in a Lenten series of sermons today is

entitled, Beloved Human. We heard of the Beloved

Creator our first Sunday in Lent as God spoke to his

one and only son, "You are my son, the Beloved; with

you I am well pleased."

Last Sunday, we learned of the The Beloved Divine One, as Peter, upon rebuking Jesus' words of his impending suffering, death and resurrection, was told by Jesus, "Get behind me, Satan. For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Today, we see a very real, very relatable Jesus as he overturns the tables in the temple. The humanness of Jesus is in plain sight of all in the temple that day. The very real and very human feeling of anger, sadness, frustration and rage are evident as Jesus speaks to those who are corrupt and trying to make money and really not even in a trust worthy way.

So, sure, Jesus in all his humanness, has every right to

be angry here in His Father's house. Jesus, after all,

came to us in human form. A tiny baby born in a

manger. A young boy who ran to his Father's house to

learn. A man who walks the earth and teaches and

hears the questions and doubts from others. A human

in all ways, he feels hunger as we read in Luke 4 verses

1 and 2. "And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned

from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the

wilderness for 40 days, being tempted by the devil.

And he ate nothing during those days. And when they

were ended, he was hungry."

Jesus, while hanging on the cross, says the simple words, "I thirst." Showing once again his humanity and needs as a living human being, he cries out for a cool refreshing drink to quench his thirst. As we read in John 19:28, "After this, Jesus knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture, "I thirst."

Jesus, being fully human, knew the heartache of hatred as we hear him say in John 15:18, "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you."

As a very human Jesus, this man knew full well the feelings of being hated and despised and sometimes mocked by those who really just hated him.

Upon hearing of the death of a dear friend, Lazarus, Jesus weeps. In John, 11:35, "Jesus wept." Feeling the deep pain of sorrow as Jesus hears of death, he cries. But he also cries for all who still do not understand, that he, himself, although fully human, is also fully divine, and in that divinity, has the power to raise his dear friend Lazarus back to life. Jesus, in so many ways, is so fully and completely human.

How awesome and wonderful it is to have a God who comes to us in the flesh. Knowing full well what it is to be human. We are created and formed by God's hand and God's own likeness. In God's image we are all formed and loved and called good by our Maker.

Still God provides for us in lavish and abundant ways by sending his one and only very much Beloved Son for us.

God in the flesh sent to a very hurting and lost world.

In the first chapter of John, we hear of this one sent

by God in the flesh. The very same flesh and blood that covers and runs through us all is here with us in a

very human form.

From the first chapter of John we hear, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

For the law was given through Moses: grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." The grace of God embodies this human Jesus who hungers, thirsts, feels hatred, weeps and knows all the heartaches and pain this very human life holds.

We are blessed this day and always that we are held and loved by a God who knows us so well.

A God who knows the struggle of this life and living as followers of this one who formed and made us by his own hands.

And even though we witness and see Jesus in the temple, outraged by the money changers in his Father's house, even though Jesus comes to us in very real and completely understandable ways, even though this Jesus is so very human, we know as well, how fully divine the son of God is. In the letter from Paul to the church in Corinth, we hear of this divinity. "For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength."

We see a glimpse as well of this divinity as Jesus tells those in the temple that day to destroy it and he himself will raise it up.

This made no sense to any who were there that day as the temple has been being rebuilt for 46 years. No way is this guy gonna just raise it all up in a matter of 3 short days.

Yet we know. The temple that this human in the flesh is speaking of is something altogether entirely different than this physical building of the temple. The temple Jesus speaks of is himself. Once again, Jesus speaks of divine things as he is surrounded by people who still think in terms of this world and the concrete evidence in the flesh of the temple, not the embodiment of God as Jesus is speaking of. Fully human, fully divine.

As we continue our Lenten journey to the cross, as we see the Beloved continue to struggle as a Human, continue to be the Divine One, may we never lose sight of the temple Jesus speaks of. May we never take for granted this fully human yet fully divine Jesus whose love for us is so great, he willingly and openly will be completely destroyed for us. In our humanness, we sin and fall short of God's glory. In Jesus' divinity, we are saved by a grace like no other, who knows the difficulties we face daily and who knows we are not always going to get it right. We are the beloved children of God. Amen