

Sermon for Christmas Eve (I)
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Holy Nativity, Plano
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Here we are again, at Christmas. Tonight we celebrate the birth of a child. But we also celebrate the grace of God that made this holy event. There is no way we can contain the full joy of this in our celebration. Even if we had all the resources of world at our fingertips, we couldn't possibly throw a party that does justice to it.

Think about it this way. The baby lying in the manger was there at the very beginning of the world. In fact, when God created everything that is just by speaking it into existence, this baby was the Word that made everything. There is no way that we can even fully understand that. But he was willing to give up the holy, exalted existence with the Father. He gave it up to become a helpless little baby lying in a manger.

That baby grew up and chose to be the spotless sacrifice for our sins. He bought us back from Satan at the price of his own life. And if we accept his gift and live with him, we can experience the grace of God in our lives every day. It is amazing that God would do that for us. It's enough to know that God loves us that much. But in order to do that, he had to take the first step of becoming one of us. He had to go through that earlier humiliation of leaving behind all the power and glory of being God, becoming human so that he could redeem humanity.

Here is the message of Christmas: You cannot sink low enough to be out of the loving care and attention of God. There is no humiliation he cannot understand. There is no temptation he has not experienced. There is no grief he has not undergone. The difference for him is that he chose to go through all of that for us.

We have a God who understands and cares about us. And all we have to do is admit our guilt, thank him for his sacrifice, and give our lives to him to do what he chooses with us, knowing that he will lead us far better than we would have chosen for ourselves.