

Advent Sunday ~ Sunday, December 1, 2019

“He Shall Be Called... ~ Wonderful Counselor”

Isaiah 9:1-7

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone...” (Isaiah 9:1)

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

wonderful = *pele* =

- a phenomenon lying outside of the realm of human _____
- that which is separated from the _____ course of events
- something unusual, _____, or incredibly great and beyond description
- it is used exclusively in the OT to describe God’s _____ acts among His people

In our post-modern, scientific, and highly technological age, we tend to have a very _____ view of the miraculous, and therefore a _____ sense of wonder.

JESUS IS WONDERFUL...

- **in His _____.**

“And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus...The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” (Luke 31:35)

- **in His _____.**

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.” (Colossians 1:15-16)

Jesus was the perfect _____ of God, reflecting God’s divine _____.

- Like God, Jesus’ _____ was pure, limitless, and selfless.
- Like God, Jesus was omniscient—all-_____.
- Like God, Jesus was omnipotent—all-_____.

- **in His _____.**

“After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening

to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.” (Luke 2:46-47)

All four gospel accounts testify to the fact that, as an adult, Jesus’ preaching and teaching of Jesus was powerful and _____, in a way people had never experienced before.

“Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.” (Matthew 7:28-29)

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” (Matt 24:35)

- **in His _____.**

“Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25)

When you look at Jesus’ ministry—His signs and wonders—you can clearly see the _____ of God in action.

- He _____ the elements of nature, by commanding the wind and waves of the stormy sea to be still and obey Him
- He took _____ over the powers of darkness by casting demons out of possessed people.
- In His presence the blind saw, the lame walked, the deaf heard, and even the dead were _____.

Jesus affirms that these signs and wonders are _____ of who He was.

“If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” (John 10:37-38)

- **in His _____ and _____.**

The purpose for Jesus’ birth—His entire life and ministry; His teaching and preaching, signs and wonders—was to _____.

“...just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

In His death and resurrection, Jesus _____ sin and death and purchased a marvellous _____ for us, liberating us from slavery to sin; reconciling us to God, and giving us new _____ in Him.

counselor = *ya-ats* =

“The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

(Isaiah 11:2)

The Bible places a high premium on wise _____.

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance...” (Proverbs 1:5)

“The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.”

(Psalm 33:11)

Jesus understands things that are beyond the ability of our _____ minds to understand. Jesus knows things that only _____ knows—He knows the _____ of God and He understands God’s plans and purposes. Jesus’ knowledge, intelligence, wisdom, and insight far _____ that of anyone who has ever lived. He understands the human _____, or psyche, first as _____ with God the Father, second as the incarnate Son of God who was fully _____ and experienced life on earth, third as the redeemer, who was without _____ and conquered sin and death by dying on the cross and rising to life again, and fourth as the ever-living and _____ Holy Spirit.

WHY JESUS IS OUR WONDERFUL COUNSELOR...

• **He knows our _____.**

He knows us wholly, _____, intimately. In fact, He knows us _____ than we know ourselves.

- He knows all about our past: our secret sins, hidden _____, lost dreams, and embarrassing moments.
- He knows all about our present—what we’re going through right now: our pressures, _____, trials, temptations, worries, and fears.
- He knows our future. He knows what’s ahead of us and is able to _____ us safely through the landmines and pitfalls.

“O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.” (Psalm 139:1-4)

• **He understand our _____.**

He can _____ to us. He knows exactly what we’re going through because He’s _____ there. He was fully human like you and me, and He knows how _____ life can get.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.”

(Hebrews 4:15)

• **He _____ for us.**

“Cast all your burdens on the Lord for he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

He cares about our _____ being. He cares about our character, our spiritual growth, and our _____ welfare. He cares about our pain and suffering. He cares about our past, present, and future.

When we see no way out or no way forward, Jesus steps in with this promise:

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

• **He embodies _____.**

Jesus can not only _____ our problem, He also knows what to _____ about it.

“To God belong wisdom and power—counsel and understanding are his.” (Job 12:13)

“For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6)

Both of these passages affirm that the source of all true wisdom is _____. And this wisdom is communicated to us most fully in _____.

“...but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:23-24)

Jesus doesn’t just _____ the wisdom of God to us, He _____ the wisdom of God.

HOW WE RECEIVE HIS GUIDANCE

• _____.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

• _____.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13)

Is Jesus my Wonderful Counselor?

Do I see Him as someone who understands what life is all about?

Do I go to Him first for assistance in dealing with life’s problems?