

The Humanity of Jesus

Part 2

Introduction.

1. Last week we began a study of the humanity of Jesus.
2. We studied Jesus prior to material creation and found He was Spirit prior to creation and His incarnation.
3. We also examined His incarnation up to the time of His resurrection.
 - a. There can be no question Jesus had a fleshly body.
 - b. He could hunger and thirst, be tired, suffer pain, be nailed to a cross and shed blood.
4. Today we will examine the humanity of Jesus after His resurrection until His ascension into heaven.

Jesus After His Resurrection

1. He was not raised a Spirit being as some contend.
 - a. It is argued the physical body of Jesus was not raised, but He was raised with a spiritual body.
 - b. Some even deny Jesus was raised at all, and argue He was only raised in the minds of His followers.
 - c. In this lesson we will refute this erroneous view and show without question Jesus was raised with a physical body.
2. He remained flesh from His resurrection to His ascension and had the same physical body He had from birth.
3. After His death and resurrection, He appeared to His apostles in His wounded physical body. (Jn. 20:19-28; Lk. 24:36-43).

John 20:19 So when it was evening on that day, the first {day} of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace {be} with you."

John 20:20 And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace {be} with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20:23 "If you forgive the sins of any, {their sins} have been forgiven them; if you retain the {sins} of any, they have been retained."

John 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

John 20:25 So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

John 20:26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace {be} with you."

John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Luke 24:36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you."

Luke 24:37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.

Luke 24:38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Luke 24:39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

Luke 24:40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

Luke 24:41 While they still could not believe {it} because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

Luke 24:42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;

Luke 24:43 and He took it and ate {it} before them.

4. He earlier appeared to Mary in a physical body. (Jn. 20:17).

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

- a. One cannot cling to a spirit.
- b. Jesus was raised with a physical body - the same body He had from birth to His death.
- c. Jesus indicated she did not need to cling to Him since He had "not yet ascended to the Father."

5. He was seen by hundreds of other witnesses over a period of 40 days. (Acts 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:5-8).

Acts 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over {a period of} forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

1 Cor 15:5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1 Cor 15:6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

1 Cor 15:7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

1 Cor 15:8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

6. Some have denied the humanity of Christ after His resurrection because He could not pass through material things if He had a physical body. (Jn. 20:19).

John 20:19 So when it was evening on that day, the first {day} of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace {be} with you."

- a. The fact Jesus appeared to the apostles and the manner in which He appeared led the apostles to believe they were seeing "a spirit." (Lk. 24:36-37).

Luke 24:36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you."

Luke 24:37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.

b. Jesus emphatically denied He was “a spirit.” (Lk. 24:38-39).

Luke 24:38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Luke 24:39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

c. The sudden appearance of Jesus in the flesh to His apostles, the doors being locked, should be understood as a miracle. (Jn. 20:19).

1) It seems He either miraculously unlocked the doors or miraculously appeared to them.

2) We read of similar miracles in the New Testament, such as what Jesus did on the Sea of Galilee. (Jn. 6:21).

John 6:21 So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and **immediately** the boat was at the land to which they were going. “*eutheos*” means “immediately, without delay, instantaneously.” (Matt. 8:3; 3:16; 4:20, 22).

3) Some seem to forget that Philip was immediately and miraculously transported some 30 miles to Azotus (Asdod) on the Mediterranean Sea after he baptized the Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:39-40).

Acts 8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

4) There is no question Philip had a physical body. See Acts 8:13, 26,,27, 30, 31.

d. Jesus, in His physical body, did similar things in His ministry.

1) After the resurrection of Jesus some did not recognize Him because their eyes were closed and “He vanished from their sight.” (Lk. 24:28-32).

Luke 24:28 And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther.

Luke 24:29 But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is {getting} toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them.

Luke 24:30 When He had reclined {at the table} with them, He took the bread and blessed {it,} and breaking {it,} He {began} giving {it} to them.

Luke 24:31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and **He vanished from their sight.**

Luke 24:32 They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" The Greek has “*aphantos*” meaning “invisible, disappeared.”

2) Some did not recognize Jesus because they were prevented by the Lord.

Luke 24:13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:14 And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place.

Luke 24:15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and {began} traveling with them.

Luke 24:16 **But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.**

Luke 24:17 And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad.

Luke 24:18 One {of them,} named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"

Luke 24:19 And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,

Luke 24:20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.

Luke 24:21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

- 3) Nothing is ever revealed to lead to the conclusion Jesus was not in His physical body, but some were temporarily prevented from recognizing Him.
- 4) We do not know why they were initially prevented from recognizing Jesus, but Jesus had His reasons that are not revealed and are not important for us to know.

Jesus At His Ascension

1. The ascension of Jesus is recorded in the gospels and in Acts (Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11).

Mark 16:19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Luke 24:50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

Luke 24:51 While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

Acts 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Acts 1:10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

Acts 1:11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

2. At the ascension Jesus was still in His physical body.

a. He spent 40 days with His disciples. (Acts 1:3).

1) He had appeared to His disciples and had spent time with them and a few others.

2) He also appeared to more than 500 others. (1 Cor. 15:6).

1 Cor 15:6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

3) His appearance to the 500 others was likely in Galilee where He had spent much time during His ministry. (Matt. 26:32; 28:7, 10, 16; Mk. 16:7).

Matt 26:32 "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Matt 28:7 "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." "the angel" was speaking to the disciples. (Matt. 28:5).

Matt 28:10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Matt 28:16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.

4) It is significant Paul did not appeal to witnesses who were all dead. (1 Cor. 15:8).

5) He wrote "most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep."

b. None were contending Jesus had a spiritual body.

3. His physical body was changed to a spiritual body at the ascension.

4. It is not so stated, but we know this by deduction. (1 Cor. 15:50).

1 Cor 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

a. God had the power to send His Spirit Son into the world in a fleshly form. (Jn. 1:14; 1 Tim. 2:5; 3:16).

b. He also had the power to change the physical body of Jesus into its original, glorious, spiritual body.

c. The Bible speaks of the glorious spiritual body Jesus now has. (Phil. 3:20-21).

Phil 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; Phil 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state **into conformity with the body of His glory**, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. NIV has "transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

Conclusion.

1. In part 3 of this series we will study Jesus as a life-giving Spirit in heaven. (Jn. 1:1-3; 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:45).

a. He is now our Mediator. (1 Tim. 2:5).

b. He is now our King. (Acts 2:33).

c. He is now our High Priest. (Heb. 2:17-18).

Heb 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Heb 2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

2. We will not focus on what the spiritual Christ is doing now, but we will examine and focus on what the spiritual Christ will do at His coming.