

# THE INCARNATION

LUKE 5:17-28

-- **Big Idea: The paradoxical nature of the incarnation demands a paradoxical response.**

- v. 26 – Literal translation: “We have seen paradoxical things today.”
- Jesus Christ is the most profoundly glorious **PARADOX** ever witnessed on earth.
- Every miracle Jesus performed in the flesh proclaimed the miraculous message of His divinity.

## 1.) The Paradox of His **HUMILITY**

- The Lord of Creation came as a servant to His creatures (Mat. 20:28).

## 2.) The Paradox of His **AUTHORITY**

- Jesus taught as a Man with intrinsic authority (Luke 4:32).
- Although He was a humble carpenter from Nazareth, His teaching was accompanied by a divine authority.

## 3.) The Paradox of His **COMPASSION**

- In spite of His incomprehensible splendor, Jesus looked upon the crowds with tender compassion (Hebrews 1:3, Matthew 9:36).
- His interactions with the paralyzed man radiate uniquely divine compassion.

-- In Christ, the unequaled authority of history's greatest teacher and prophet is paradoxically paired with the unequaled compassion of history's most humble servant.

#### 4.) The Paradox of His **INSIGHT**

-- Jesus spoke and admonished with insight into the thoughts of others that can only be described as divine.

#### 5.) The Paradox of His **HEALING**

-- Although Jesus stood before the crowd as a mortal man, He healed with the very power of the immortal God (Luke 4:40).

-- With Jesus, the impossible was effortless.

-- Those restored by Jesus were healed in a moment, and they were healed to the utmost.

#### 6.) The Paradox of His **FORGIVENESS**

-- Jesus came with power to heal sick bodies, but, more importantly, He came with the power to redeem sin-sick souls (Isaiah 43:25).

#### 7.) Our paradoxical Lord demands a paradoxical **RESPONSE**

-- Because God the Son became man for our redemption, we are called to respond to Him in a way "contrary to commonly accepted opinion."

-- The reckless abandon of Levi really is the only sane response to the incarnate Christ.

-- From beginning to end, the Christian life is characterized by paradoxes.

-- Since the identity of our Lord seems impossibly **STRANGE** to the world around us, it should not surprise us that our proper response to Him bewilders it as well.

-- *Does the paradoxical nature of Christ inspire uncommon worship and devotion from you?*