

Harmony of the Gospels
Part 7
“There Is No One Like Jesus”

There was a boy that was sitting on a park bench with one hand resting on an open Bible. He was loudly exclaiming his praise to God. **"Oh Lord I just praise you for how awesome you are...!"** He spoke loudly and confidently, without worrying whether anyone heard him or not.

Shortly after this, along came a man who had recently completed some studies at a local university. Feeling himself very enlightened in the ways of truth and very eager to show this enlightenment, **he asked the boy about why he was so happy...**

"Hey" asked the boy in return with a bright laugh, **"Don't you have any idea what God is able to do? I just read that God opened up the waves of the Red Sea and led the whole nation of Israel right through the middle."**

The enlightened man laughed slightly, then sat down next to the boy and began to try to open his eyes to the "realities" of the miracles of the Bible.

"That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown that the Red Sea in that area was only 10-inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across."

The boy was stumped. His eyes wandered from the man back to the Bible laying open in his lap. **The man, content that he had enlightened a poor, naive young person to the finer points of scientific insight, turned to go.**

Scarcely had he taken two steps when **the boy began to rejoice and praise the Lord even louder than before.** The man turned to ask the reason for this resumed jubilation.

"Wow!" exclaimed the boy happily, **"Lord, you are even greater than I thought! Not only did you lead the whole nation of Israel through the Red Sea, You did it by drowning the whole Egyptian army in 10 inches of water!"**

The Lord is so much greater than we can possibly imagine.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Jesus is so much more wonderful than most of us have ever come to know.

- ☞ **Even from his beginning** here on earth as a Baby, a young child, and growing to become a man, **Jesus is incomparable to anyone else that has ever lived.**
- ☞ **That is why we follow Jesus** and commit our entire life to Him.
- ☞ **That is why we don't follow** a church, some other religious leader, or some denomination, **we Just follow Jesus.**

Isaiah 40:18

To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him

Isaiah 46:5

(The Lord speaking of Himself) “To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal

We have been studying the Book of 1 Kings on Wednesday night, and in chapter 8 that we are going through now, Solomon said of the Lord:

1 Kings 8:23

... “LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You

1 Kings 8:27

“... Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You....

Our God is not like anything else that is here on earth or in heaven above...He is high and exalted, and glorious in power and exceeding great and extravagant in His love for us...

So, this section of our study in Harmony of the Gospels, is where we get to know how Jesus began as a person like us, going through all of the same struggles in life that we go through.

- ☞ **Jesus spoke the Universe into existence**, but when He came as a baby, He had to **learn how to talk**, just like us.
- ☞ **Jesus walked the halls of heaven** for all of eternity past, but when He came as a baby, **He had to learn to walk**, just like we did.

And from the beginning of Jesus life here on earth, satan was in the background seeking to destroy Him, before He ever grew up.

- ☞ **You remember one of the stunning scenes** from the movie, “*The Passion of the Christ*”, was when Jesus was being arrested, tried and flogged, we saw satan waling around in the background, just watching what was happening.
- ☞ **It was a reminder** to us that **we have a real enemy** that wants to destroy us, just as he wanted to destroy Jesus when he came.
- ☞ **We cannot fight** this enemy in our own strength and in our own flesh, because we are no match for him.



- ☞ **But when we resist him**, and tell him no, and we turn to the Word of God and prayer, and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen us, then satan is no match for us.

As we continue in Matthew chapter 2, Herod has already attempted to kill Jesus when He was born in Bethlehem.

- ☞ **Herod had asked the Magi** to return to him and tell him if they found the one who was called "*The King of the Jews*".

So, the Holy Spirit warns Joseph and Mary in a dream that Herod is still seeking to kill Jesus, so they are to flee to Egypt until Herod dies...

Matthew 2:13-18

13 Now when Mary and Joseph had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "**Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.**"

14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and **was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

You know, I probably shouldn't tell the same joke again to you that I just told you on Christmas day, but this one is so cute, and fits exactly with this story, so here it is again...

A Sunday school teacher was asking her class **what they thought of the story of how God took Mary, Joseph and Jesus out of Israel into Egypt,**

A little boy by came up with his drawing and showed it to the Sunday School teacher...

She looked at the picture for a few moments, **It had an airplane with 4 people on board...**she then asked the little boy what the story represented...

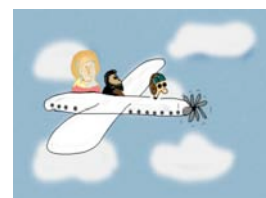
He answered, "**The Flight into Egypt**", that The Lord was in control over every part of Joseph, Mary and Jesus lives as Jesus was coming into the world and even in protecting him from Herod, wanting to kill Jesus.

"Well go on, explain the story as you have drawn it here on your paper..."

"Well, here is an airplane with Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus sitting inside, on their flight to Egypt..."

The teacher said, very good, but who is that 4th person sitting in the cockpit of the plane?"

"Oh", he said, "That is Pontius—The Pilot".



I take great confidence in a Lord over my life, who controls the very events of history so completely, that he can know and write of events that will happen, 700 years in advance..

Hosea 11:1

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, And **out of Egypt I called My son.**

Even as the entire nation of Israel was birthed from Egypt, out of terrible and difficult circumstances, so also will Gods own Son, Jesus will begin His life as a man, in difficult and great times of distress as he come out of Egypt to set the entire world free.

☞ **What kind of precision** is needed for the Lord to speak through Hosea 700 years before Jesus was born, and predict that Jesus would have to go to Egypt so that his life could be spared from Herod, and then come from Egypt later to Nazareth.

1. Comes from Eternity. **Micah 5:2**
2. Born in Bethlehem **Micah 5:2**
3. Lives in Nazareth. **Matthew 2:23 Isaiah 11:1**
4. Flees to Egypt **Hosea 11:1**
5. Comes to the temple in Jerusalem **Malachi 3:1**
6. Grows up in Nazareth **Mark 1:9**
7. Crucified and raised in Jerusalem. **Psalm 22 Isaiah 53**

Think of the precision it would take to predict these places that Jesus would live in, be taken to, and die and be raised in.

- ☞ **The Bible accurately spoke in advance** of all these places that Jesus would live, and did it perfectly.
- ☞ **The God we serve**, the Lord Jesus Christ, is not like anyone else who has ever lived on this earth.
- ☞ **Jesus controls** the very time we live in, perfectly, precisely.
- ☞ **He can control the times of your life, but only if you surrender your time and your life to Him.**

These kinds of prophecies in the Old Testament, fulfilled in the New Testament, documented for us in the Bible, tell us that Jesus is Lord of the Universe, He lives outside of time, and He knows everything that is going to happen to us...Because of this, we can have peace in knowing that He is going to take care of everything in our lives.

Matthew 2

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, **was exceedingly angry**; and he sent forth and **put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem** and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:



18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."

There is a battle in the realm of the Spirit, that we cannot see. I think that if the Lord let us see what was really going on, it would scare us so much that we would hide in a corner and never leave.

- ☞ **The Bible describes** a number of angelic beings, both for God and against God, **that number more than all of the grains of sand on the earth.**
- ☞ **That is exponentially a greater number** by far than all the people that have ever lived on the earth.

When Lucifer rebelled against God and tried to ascend his throne above the throne of God, he was cast out and along with Lucifer, he took with him, 1/3 of all the angels in heaven.

The Book of Revelation, chapter 12 tells this story...

Revelation 12

1 Now **a great sign appeared** in heaven: a woman (**Israel**) clothed with the sun, (**Jacob**) with the moon (**Rachel**) under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. (**12 Sons/Tribes**) (SEE GENESIS 37)

2 Then being with child, (**Jesus**) she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 And **another sign appeared in heaven**: behold, a great, fiery red dragon (**satan**) having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven (**1/3 of the angels**) and threw them to the earth. And the dragon (**Satan**) stood before the woman (**Israel**) who was ready to give birth, (**to Jesus**) to devour her Child as soon as it was born (**through Herod**)

Two times here in Revelation 12, the Holy Spirit say's "A sign appeared..."

- ☞ **These verses here in Revelation 12**, are for "Signs", "**Examples**" for us, of some greater truth.

Now, one of the problems that we have as believers, is that we don't pay attention to the signs along the way...

On the side of the highway, waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Trooper sees a car puttering along at **22 m.p.h.** He thinks to himself, "**This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!**" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are **five elderly ladies -- two in the front seat and three in the back, wide eyed, sacred and white as ghosts.**

The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "**you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving much slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers.**"

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit, **exactly twenty-two miles an hour!**" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The State Trooper, trying to contain a chuckle, so he explains to her **that 22 was the route number, not the speed limit.**

A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"**But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time,**" the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute, officer. We just got off Route 119.

Not paying attention to the signs...

Now, I'm not talking about supernatural signs and wonders, but the signs along the way in the Bible, the Word of God, like here in chapter 12

- ☞ **Just like the parables** that Jesus taught that are earthly stories of a heavenly truth.
- ☞ **The parable of the 4 kinds of soil**, are an example from heavens viewpoint of the condition of the human heart.
- ☞ **In the Soil that had thorns and thistles in it** Jesus said that Some hearts fall away from Jesus because they are overwhelmed by the cares of this world and so forth...

So, Here, this woman and the child she is delivering, is "**A Sign**", an Example for us this morning from the Book of Revelation for this study that we are looking at in the Harmony of the Gospels, where Herod sent out troops to kill all of the babies under two years old in Bethlehem, just to try and kill Jesus..

Why does the Lord tell us this horrible story of the killing of the babies?

- ☞ **To remind us** that we are in a spiritual battle for our eternal lives.
- ☞ **Not only our eternal life**, but also the eternal life of other people.
- ☞ **To show us** that all of satan's attacks and methods are **not really directed at us per se, but are really directed at Jesus and us, because we follow Jesus.**

John 15:18

(Jesus Said) "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

Matthew 5:11-12

11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely **for My sake.**

12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you

If you find that the world no longer likes you very much because you are following Jesus now, don't be surprised.

- ⊕ **And don't take it personal**, it is not you the world hates, it is Jesus in you that they hate.
- ⊕ **Jesus said**, when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you, because you love the Lord...REJOICE, because this gets you a great reward.
- ⊕ **But if people never revile you** or make fun of you because you follow Jesus, maybe it is because you are not vocal enough about where you stand with Jesus...

So, through prophecy, the Lord is telling us in the Book of Revelation, that from the moment Jesus is born, satan will be trying to kill him while he is here on earth.

- ⊕ **The Bible says** that satan did not really understand the Cross, and what Jesus was accomplishing on the Cross.

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

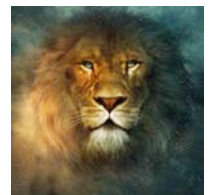
7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, **the hidden wisdom** which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

8 which **none of the rulers of this age knew**; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory

There was a plan to Crucify Jesus and pay for our sins, by the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit, made before the world was created, before Lucifer was created.

- ⊕ **Satan did not know or understand** that Jesus death on the Cross would be his defeat.
- ⊕ **Satan did not understand** that when Jesus died, He was setting us free from satan's power over us through sin and death.

In the movie “**The Chronicles of Narnia**”, The white witch who represents satan, didn't understand why the lion who represented Jesus, wanted to die in place of **Edmund**.



- ⊕ **Edmund was guilty of betrayal** and according to the law, should be put to death.
- ⊕ **Aslan offers** to die for Edmund, to take his punishment for him.
- ⊕ **The witch agrees**, but it is apparent that she does not understand what Aslan is doing.

Jesus Death on the Cross paid for all of the sins of every person that has ever been born.

- ☞ **Jesus broke** the power of death.
- ☞ **He defeated satan** once and for all
- ☞ **He won** for us a victory that we could never have gained ourselves.

1 John 3:8

... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil

If satan had understood the true purpose of the Cross, He would have never sought to crucify Jesus.

Matthew 2:19-23

19 Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 saying, “Arise, **take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel**, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.”

21 Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And **being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.**

23 And **he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”**

Every time I read this story of how the Holy Spirit was guiding Joseph and Mary, first to Egypt to protect Jesus from death, then back to Israel, but specifically to Nazareth, just so prophecy could be fulfilled, I am amazed at the power of the Lord.

- ☞ **When I see this great power that our Lord has** over every event of our lives, I causes me to just cast off all worry about my life and just allow to do what He does best, run things.
- ☞ **Maybe that is what the Lord is speaking to you this morning**, “It is time to stop worrying about whatever you are worrying about, and let the Lord take over...”
- ☞ **He is able to subdue or lift up** whatever need to be done in your life.
- ☞ **The moment that you hear**, believe and accept this important principle, it will set you free and give you greater peace than you have ever known.

So, the Lord leads Joseph and Mary back to Nazareth to raise Jesus there, because the Old Testament prophets said that Jesus would be raised in Nazareth...

Luke 2:40-52

40 And Jesus grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

41 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

42 And when **He was twelve years old**, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

43 When they had finished the days, as **they returned**, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and **His mother did not know it**;

44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and **sought Him** among their relatives and acquaintances.

Now most parents are thinking to themselves, "How in the world did Mary and Joseph get all the way back to Nazareth and not know that their son was missing?"

- ☞ **It was the custom of that day** for the men and the women to walk in groups separate from each other, men with men, women with women,
- ☞ **This was to give the women a chance to talk to the other women about how mad they were at their husbands...Just kidding.**

The children of these parents could walk back home in either the group of men or the group of women.

- ☞ **Mary must have thought** that Joseph had Jesus with the men.
- ☞ **Joseph must have thought** that Mary had Jesus with the women...
- ☞ **Aren't you glad** that even Jesus family was at times a little dysfunctional, that encourages me...

It took them 3 days to get back to Nazareth, before they realized Jesus was not with them..

"I though Jesus was with you Mary...No Joseph I thought that he was with you..."

- ☞ **The Greek word here in verse 44 for "Seeking him"**: gr. **"anazeteo"** (an-ad-zay-the'-o) *to frantically search for—to diligently search out*—Mary and Joseph were in a state of panic.

Luke 2

45 So when they did not find Him, **they returned to Jerusalem**, seeking Him.

46 Now so it was that **after three days** they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And **all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.**



Can you get this picture in your mind?

- ☞ **Here is a 12 year old boy**, carrying on a deep spiritual conversation with the scribes and the Pharisees, about the Scriptures.

- ☞ **The Pharisees** were the ultra conservative spiritual leaders of Israel, they were the teachers of the law of God.
- ☞ **The Scribes** were the ones that meticulously copied the scriptures night and day, if they made one single error they destroy the entire page they were copying.

Here is a young boy, reasoning with them about the Word of God...There is no one like Jesus!

- ☞ **The context here indicates** that Jesus was sitting listening to the rabbis, but then He asked them questions **not to get information from them but so as to instruct them in the heart of god's law.**
- ☞ **The Jewish Historian Josephus**, in section 2 of "his life", says that the chief priests and rabbis **were constantly coming to Jesus when he was about 14 years of age—to be instructed by him more accurately in the things concerning the law.**
- ☞ **Josephus say's** they were either very stupid or very humble, recognizing Jesus knowledge even at 14.

It says that the Scribes and the Pharisees were amazed at Jesus.

- ☞ **Amazed:** gr. "**existemi**" literally in the Greek, "thrown out of position, out of their minds in amazement".
- ☞ **In today's language:** "**They were "blown away"** at how Jesus was able to teach!!!
- ☞ **Are you amazed** at Him this morning, then you don't yet know Him well enough, because the more you get to know Jesus, the more amazed you are.

Luke 2

48 So when they saw Him, **they were amazed**; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? **Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?**"

50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Verse 49: these are the first recorded words in the scriptures of Jesus.

- ☞ **Essentially Jesus is saying to his parents**—"*you should not have left me, because you knew I had my fathers business to take care of*"
- ☞ **Jesus was trying to teach Mary and Joseph** that he was on a mission that was decided before the world was made, **Jesus was in the temple because he was doing what his father in heaven wanted him to do.**

What business are you about right now in your life?

- ☞ **Are you about your own business**, working, raising a family, just trying to make it day by day?
- ☞ **Are you about this worlds business**, buying storing up things, worrying about what you have, longing for what you don't have.

Jesus was just about His Father business, and I am thankful that He was.

- ☞ **Because Jesus was totally focused** on the goal, to save you and me, he never took his eyes off the prize.

Hebrews 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who **for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We should be about our Father business also, everyday.

- ☞ **Jesus endured the Cross**, He knew that it was coming, He chose the day in history, and the most horrible way to die, ever invented by man.
- ☞ **Jesus chose this agony for Himself**, because He was looking ahead into your life, and It was your face that He saw while He was being tortured on the Cross.



Because of what He knew His agony would bring, your freedom your eternal life, Jesus Endured the Cross...

- ☞ **So are we not about** our Fathers business?
- ☞ **Why are we so caught up** in our own life?
- ☞ **Why are we so much** a part of this world, when it is all passing away?

Why are we not just fully devoted to Jesus in every part of our life...

- ☞ **I want to be**, How about You?