

## Jesus' Reward

By Randy Jones

*(Lord's Table Lesson)* Have you ever thought about Jesus in Heaven with God the Father, before He was sent down to earth? Think about what it was like for him to be together with all of the Godhead in Heaven. Think of the beauty that we are told of that exists in Heaven. I am sure that our imaginings can't do it justice. Imagine, if you can, what it was like for Jesus to leave Heaven to come down to earth as a man. He was leaving the uniqueness of Godhood, and close proximity to the Father and the Holy Spirit. He had to become a physical man so that he could experience what mankind did each and every day. So that He could understand every facet of our lives. So that by His sinless example, (that He had yet to live), we could see how we were to live and that it was possible. Can we even imagine or understand the Oneness that the Godhead shared? Or even the sense of disappointment and separation that They felt because of mankind's sins. These very sins that Jesus was going to be close to very shortly! These very sins that he was going to have to come to earth for! The Oneness that they shared, certainly includes being in total agreement on all things. They shared the same sense of righteousness, morality, truth, love, compassion, and the list could go on and on. Now Jesus had to leave that physical proximity to those attributes and come down to Earth and to be physically among man, which by the way was created. He had to be among those things that the Godhead was most certainly not: unrighteousness, immorality, lying, hatred, envy, self-seeking, etc. Do you think that leaving Heaven and close proximity to the Godhead was easy for Jesus? Look what he had to look forward to.

We can't know or understand what it was like for Jesus in His very early years as a young child. But we do know that at a pretty young age He was about His "Father's business" (Luke 2:46-50). We know and understand that in all ages of His life He did not sin, not even once. *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us"* (2Cor. 5:21). And, *"...leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps; Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"* (1Peter 2:21-22, which is a quote from Isa. 53:9). We know that Jesus was subject to the same temptations that we are (Heb. 2:14-18; Luke 4:1-13 [temptation by Satan]). He endured them without sinning! *"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin"* (Heb. 4:15). Brethren don't intentionally minimize Christ's humanity. It wasn't easy for Jesus to overcome sin! Remember He was like us in all regards, man. Yes, He was Deity in the flesh, but He endured the temptations of man as a man, not as Deity. How hard is it for you to overcome something that is a weakness for you even once, much less multiple times? Jesus overcame all temptations for His whole life here on Earth! Each of us have sinned in our lives many times. Jesus sinned not once! We recently heard a lesson on the "Touch of the Master's Hand." One of the main points in that lesson was that thru Jesus' touching of the sinners, the common people of that time, He was showing His compassion, love, and empathy for them. He experienced thru His touching them their pain, mentally, physically and emotionally. He understands our sorrows and pains, because He experienced them just as we do! But Jesus while in the flesh had to deal with His fleshly feelings, even though as Deity He had to fulfill His purpose on earth. *"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour"* (John 12:27).

We all know very well of the last week of Jesus' life. We often talk of it as we are about to partake of the Lord's Supper. We know of the anguish that He experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night that He was betrayed by Judas Iscariot. Think of the pain that that betrayal caused Jesus. Don't you think that it hurt Him? He loved Judas; he was one of the twelve original apostles. He was close to him. As a man, Jesus had to be hurt by that. How do you feel when someone very close to you hurts you or lets you down? He was hurt by the lack

of attention, comfort, and prayer that the apostles, which were in His inner circle of friends, gave Him when He was in agony in the Garden. He needed comfort and support, but didn't receive it from them that night when He needed it the most. That hurt!

Now to the trial. Do any of you think that you or anyone that you know could have endured all of the physical and emotional torture that Jesus endured that day? Think about this: Here was in truth God in the flesh and in their midst, and He was about to be crucified by those very ones He came to save! Because of that crucifixion, mankind would be able to have their sins forgiven because of Jesus shed His precious blood. God was going to be crucified here on earth to fulfill the prophecies about Jesus and the salvation of mankind. I dare anyone anywhere to read Isaiah 53 in its entirety and not see and understand the pain, the rejection, the humility, the love of Jesus as a man! And even in reading and understanding to the best of our abilities, we still won't be able to completely understand the depth of the suffering of Christ Jesus. It's there; just open your eyes and see it. He hurt, He bled, He suffered, He was humiliated, He was rejected! All this for you and for me.

Now to briefly to sum it up. What was Jesus reward? We know what our reward will be because of His sacrifice for us. Hope of heaven, forgiveness of sins, eternal life with the Godhead in Heaven! What did Jesus receive for a reward when He left heaven? He left the presence of the Godhead, He left the beauty of Heaven, He became a mortal man with the weaknesses and frailties that accompany man, He experienced the human condition with all of its problems, He was confronted personally by Satan, He experienced the death and sickness of loved ones, He experienced almost total rejection of the Jewish nation, He was beaten, tortured, abused mentally and emotionally, He experienced the lack of understanding of so many things that He taught His apostles. Where is the reward for Jesus? It seems that on the surface of things that His reward was suffering! Yes He did suffer, but He knew that ultimately His suffering would lead to His reward and His reward would also be our reward: resurrection and life eternal with God in heaven! Jesus is currently in Heaven with the Godhead reigning over His Kingdom, the Church, of which we are members. His example of suffering and of all that He left and gave up and experienced, led to His reward of being back with God in heaven. That reward is ours also, and is the gift given to us by Jesus Christ! His reward is our reward!

### **A Moments Wisdom on Generosity**

- Before withholding thy charity, remember that a shroud has no pockets.
- What I gave, I have; what I spent, I had; what I kept, I lost.
- A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses.
- It is not long after the hand ceases to scatter that the heart ceases to pray.
- If everyone gave a thread, the poor man would have a shirt.
- Those who give have all things; those who withhold have nothing.
- The miser hoards himself into poverty