

## Sermon: Hope Through Humanity

**Text: Daniel 7:13-14; Isaiah 52-53; Philippians 2:5-8**

### Discussion Questions:

- This Advent season, we will be deepening our understanding of the humanity of Jesus Christ. We often think of Jesus as the “Son of God.” Referring to Jesus in this way emphasizes His divinity—the fact that Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity, who has eternally existed as one of the three persons in the Godhead. However, we don’t always explore the fact that Jesus often described Himself as the “Son of Man.” This title emphasizes the HUMANITY of Jesus—the fact that in His incarnation (birth), He became fully human.
  - Take some time to discuss your understanding of the humanity of Christ. What does it mean that Jesus became fully human?
  - In the four Gospels, Jesus often refers to Himself as the “Son of Man” (85 times!). Why do you think He does this? What do you think He means by this?
  - Of the 85 times that Jesus is referred to as the “Son of Man” in the Gospels, there are only 2 times that we hear this title on the lips of anyone other than Jesus Himself (and these two times in John 12:34 are used as an expression of criticism and unbelief). In other words, this is a title that Jesus uses for Himself—but it is NOT a title that other people want to use for Him. Why do you think this is? Why do you think the people around Jesus are so reluctant to acknowledge the humanity of Jesus?
  - What reason could Jesus possibly have for using this expression as a description for Himself?
- Read **Daniel 7:13-14**. In his vision, Daniel sees before him “one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.” Up to this point in the Bible, this phrase “son of man” is often used to describe the prophets themselves (Ezekiel is called “son of man” nearly 100 times). Here in Daniel 7, the coming Messiah is being described as one like a son of man. What is the meaning of this? If your Bible has textual notes, what is the meaning of the actual Aramaic phrase (*bar enash*) that Daniel uses?
- Read **Philippians 2:5-8**. Take some time to walk through each of the individual phrases of this passage. How does this passage describe Jesus? What does this tell us about Him? What hope do we have in the fact that Jesus was “made in human likeness”?
- Read **Isaiah 52:13-53:12**. This prophecy of Isaiah—written 700 years before Jesus was born—is a clear description of what Jesus did for us on the cross. How do we see the humanity of Jesus in this prophecy? Why is it so very important to understand His humanity?
- What hope does it give you, personally, to know that Jesus was completely and fully human?