



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

In a recent church newsletter article, my daughter, Robin included a litany that was written by Howard Thurman titled “The Work of Christmas.” We often think of the “work” of Christmas as those things we do to prepare – shopping, wrapping gifts, cleaning the house, baking cookies, making Christmas dinner – but Howard Thurman suggests that the work of Christmas begins when all of those things are complete. He writes:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

*Have you ever considered that maybe “the work of Christmas” is what it means for the Word to become flesh and live among us? **“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1: 14, NRSV).***

Perhaps the Word becoming flesh and living among us is momentary, happening only in the moments when “the work of Christmas,” is being done. Could it be less about a particular person and more about a way of being and living with each other?

Most of us hear about the Word becoming flesh and living among us and we immediately assume it’s about Jesus. I don’t disagree with that! Please hear me. I don’t disagree with that! We see him enfleshing the Word of God throughout his life; enfleshing forgiveness, love, mercy,

peace, gentleness, nonviolence, wisdom, compassion, generosity. That was his way of being and living.

So, yes, I do think the Word became flesh in Jesus. Absolutely!

But what if the Word becoming flesh is not exclusive to Jesus? What about us? You and me? Could the Word become flesh in us?

Maybe the Word can and is intended to become flesh in us when we embody Christ's teachings. Maybe the Word becomes flesh every time we offer compassion or mercy, in every moment when we do "the work of Christmas."

Have you ever loved or forgiven another person? Have you ever reached out to another with compassion or gentleness? Have you ever responded with nonviolence and peace? Have you ever fed the hungry or cared for the sick? Has someone else ever done those things to or for you? If you answered yes to any one of those questions then you can also say, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us."

I write this a few days after Christmas and ...

... the song of the angels is stilled,

... the star in the sky is gone,

... the kings and the princes are home, [and]

... the shepherds are back with their flock.

But what about us? Where do we go from here? What's next for us? Will we embody Christ's teachings and carry his light into the world?

In a world that can often be confusing, we desire to display Christ in our lives. In a world that seems fractured, we want to be a fellowship in Christ. In a world where injustice and loneliness exist, we want to reach out. And finally, in a world that needs faith, we want all to know Jesus and be invited into a community centered around him. May it be so!

As always, I look forward to seeing you down the road!

Please pray for our country, our nation's leaders, troops, firefighters, law enforcement officers, first responders, all those in the medical field and everyone who is serving to keep us safe!

Until next time, love Jesus, be thankful and keep doing the good stuff.

*God bless,
Serving God and Community
Bob Dillon*

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God bless America.

Jesus said, "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all."

Mark 16:15 (The Message)