

*John 1:1–5 ESV*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

### **The Son was with us from the beginning**

Michael talked about loneliness - Where does it come from? Who were the first lonely people? It started with sin and separation from God, which we read about in the first book of the Bible and the Old Testament; Genesis. And death came into the world through the sin of Adam and Eve. And Death apart from God is the ultimate loneliness.

*Romans 5:12 ESV*

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned*

### **The Son was with us through the Old Testament**

#### **Christophanies, Prophecies, and Archetypes**

**(Christophany**, or an appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ on earth. **Prophecy** - duh, an **Archetype** is an imperfect reflection or copy of the original genuine article, which biblically speaking is Jesus. But the Son was not just with us to temporarily mend our loneliness in Christophanies/spirit form, Prophecies, and Archetypes...)

### **The Son was with us in the flesh**

*John 1:14 ESV*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Luke 20:9–16 ESV*

*And he began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!"*

Interestingly enough, there are three things that the Son chose to do without and we spend most of our lives clamoring for –

For the Son to be with us -

- **He did without position** – What positions do we seek out instead of relying on Christ for our fulfillment?
- **He did without possessions** – How do we chase after things trying to find status or fulfillment? Why is it when we get what we think we want, we rarely feel fulfilled?

*2 Corinthians 8:9 ESV*

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

- **He did without privilege** – Too many times we “deserve” to be treated a certain way or to be honored? How might entitlement be robbing us of our happiness and even joy? Why would we think we deserve something at the expense of someone else?

*Mark 10:45 ESV*

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

*1 Peter 5:1–3 ESV*

*So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.*

What are some things that God may be asking you to change or relinquish in your life which may be inhibiting you from becoming more like Christ?

Spend time taking prayer requests and allow time for participants to pray.