

## Faith Life Weekly 12/29/07

### Thought:

Have you ever had too much?

Have you ever been filled to the point that you are stuffed?

Has the water ever broken in your life?

Have you experienced water going over the dam?

Have you ever said to a good friend, "You're just too much!"

Has anyone, anything, ever been too much for you?

Maybe someone had done too much.

Maybe you received a gift that was overabundant.

You said, "That's too much. You didn't have to do that."

Preacher Willy Willimon suggests that Jesus' coming at Christmas time, Jesus in the flesh, God with flesh on, the real, genuine "God"... "Is "too much". He comes to dwell in our world, our real world, where there is great celebration but there is also weeping in the streets.

Gospel Writer John says that Jesus came into the world. "He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him." (John 1) He was just "too much".

We want a world, a God, that is neat and tidy, secure, "kept in heaven", we could say, "ready to be revealed on another day". The world we know, however, is messy and disorganized in an odd sort of way. This is where God chooses to dwell. Jesus, God in the flesh, is just too much.

Willimon asks the question, "Who had really asked for "this much", this much God, all bundled up in one person, a human being mind you, God in the flesh, God standing there face to face with us, in the flesh?"

Can you relate to this?

Who wanted this much love? Who really wanted this much forgiveness? Who wanted this much grace?

All we wanted was a tiny bit, a little morsel, but God gave us the full meal deal. God gave it all to us. God gave us His Son. God gave us Jesus. God gave of Himself. And this is just too much...

### SONG:

Listen to this song that we have grown to love in the contemporary worship setting.

**"Mary, Did You Know?"**

By Mark Lowry

*Mary did you know that your baby boy would some day walk on water?*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?*

*Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?*

*This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?*

*Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?*

*And when your kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.*

*Oh Mary did you know---*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.*

*The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb---*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?*

*Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?*

*This sleeping child you're holding is the great--I--- AM---*

### Prayer:

A prayer for God who is just too much at Christmas time.

"God, you are just too much. We did not deserve your love, your truth, your grace; Some times we cannot even begin to take you in. We are full. You came to dwell with us. But can we say thank you this Christmas? Thanks for dwelling with us among all the celebrations and struggles. Thanks for befriending us and really – you know – becoming one of us. Thanks for being God with flesh on, hands and feet, and heart. Thanks for filling us again and again, when at times our cups are just plain empty. Amen."

Merry Christmas Friends! Our God really is too much!

R.F.

*2008 is the year of "Reconnecting"*

*We will be focusing on mission also in 2008 with a "mission a month"*

*Sunday school children, don't forget that we will be taking up a canned goods offering on the first Sunday of each month during the children's sermon. This offering will be distributed to a local food pantry.*