

UNDERCOVER BOSS

John 1:9-14

December 5, 2010

Undercover Boss is a television show where the boss from a big corporation shows up at one of his stores as a regular worker. No one knows who he is. He works along side of them and sees what it is like to work for himself! The other employees, not knowing that he is the boss, act like they always act on the job. If they knew it was the boss, the experiment wouldn't work, because they'd act differently. We all would be on our best behavior if we know the boss is working with us. And it's kind of nice to know that boss comes and finds out what it's like to do our jobs. We can wonder if they really understand what it means to be us. Christmas is sort of like that. God took on flesh and dwelt among us. But He didn't look like God; He looked like one of us. He came as a baby. And He came undercover. Let's look at our text for the day:

TEXT: John 1:9-14

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 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. There are four observations I would like to note from this text:

1. Jesus is God.

The first thing this text makes clear is that Jesus is God, the One who created all things.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

To this day, it amazes me that anyone would think there is no God. To think that, one must believe all things that exist came about with absolutely no cause. This idea is impossible to the human mind. Some say, "Well, it's just as easy for me to imagine that everything came from nothing as it is to believe in the existence of God." Really? What about simple logic?

If ever there was a time when there was nothing, there would be nothing still. That is a truism that cannot be debunked. And yet, there is something. It had a cause, a Creator. The Bible claims that the Creator of all things determined to enter into a small part of that creation by coming to earth as a man. That man is Jesus. Jesus came as a man and was a human man indeed. But He is also God. This is no ordinary man and must not be considered so. Many write off Jesus as if His importance is no greater than any other. This is incorrect. He is the Creator. He is the light that lightens every man. All were created through Him.

2. The world doesn't receive Him.

He came as the ultimate Undercover Boss. He made the World. He is Lord of all, King of Kings, but He went and continues to go unrecognized by this world and its systems.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

When He came, He was born to a poor family. Some obscure astrologers from the East made their way to pay Him homage, as did a few shepherds. But besides that, He was largely ignored. He grew up and the mayor of His town didn't bow to Him, the governor of the Roman province He was in didn't recognize Him and even had Him killed. Today the world He made doesn't know Him. If they knew Him, not only would there be prayer in school, there'd be prayer in everything. Every business would be ruled by prayer, every political office, every board meeting. Every UN meeting would begin with a hymn to God and with a call on Jesus, the King of them all, that He might be pleased. You don't see that. You don't see the dignitaries leaving the UN meetings saying, "We have talked and we think Jesus is pleased with what we will do. That is our goal." If you were to walk up to a member of United States government after legislation is passed and asked, do you think Jesus, Creator of all things, would be pleased? Did you take Him into account? They'd have you arrested. The Creator showed up, He was and continues to be rejected by this world.

3. The Jews don't receive Him

11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Israel, who had the prophets and the oracles of God, the ones who should have known for sure, they did not know that this was their Savior. Of all people, Israel should have received her King for they had the Scriptures that told of Him. They didn't see their Savior as He walked in the streets, declaring the great things of God. They didn't receive Him as He healed all the sick and raised the dead. They didn't receive Him when was in their synagogues and their Temple, talking with the learned men and sharing truths from heaven. Even after He died and rose, Israel still has rejected her Creator. And they had and continue to have the witness of the Scriptures. They had them then and they have them now:

Micah 5:2 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrata, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Zechariah 9:9 9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Psalms 22: 16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet- 17 I can count all my bones- they stare and gloat over me;

18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Isaiah 53:3-4 3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our grief's and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:9-10 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Psalms 16:10 10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Israel has rejected the Son of God. The world and the powerful leaders of the world have not received the Creator either. Even though He walked among us and His reputation remains to this day.

4. Those chosen receive Him.

He came to the world and the world did not receive Him, Israel didn't receive Him, but someone received Him. Some still receive Him. Those are the ones who are chosen by Him. In other words, human beings, left to their own devices, reject God when He comes to earth. But God wants to have a people who love Him. So He revealed Himself to a people, made up from all nations of the earth, and He enabled some to see Him for who He is. This is what it means to be chosen of God:

Colossians 3:12 12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

If you here believe in Him, if you here know that He is the Savior, that He is God, it is not because you are smart that you know this. Rather, God, in His kindness revealed this to you. He chose you personally to be one of His own. The Bible says:

1 Peter 2: 9 9But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

You are a chosen by God to see what the world did not see and cannot see: God in the face of Jesus Christ! He has called you to see the light of the world. Let's go back to our text and see this:

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to

become children of God. 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Men, women, boys and girls, born on the earth by their mothers, because a mom and a dad decided to have children, these people do not see Jesus and do not receive Him. Those who receive Him are born not of the flesh, but of the Spirit. And it is not by man's will or choosing. It is by God's will and choosing. Do not fear whether you are chosen or not. If you believe, He has chosen you. Rejoice in it. For He has shown you the Savior so that you can shine the light of that Savior to the world, that all who believe can be forgiven of sin and have peace with God. Don't reject Jesus as the Son of God, but instead receive Him. Believe in Him. And you shall become a child of God by right! You will be born again, but this time not of the flesh, but of the Spirit. You will have new life. Receive the Creator who walked the Earth. Receive Jesus the Savior.

This Christmas, throughout our state, our nation, and even the world, people will be celebrating the birth of a Savior they have not received and do not know. People who need salvation and need forgiveness of sins will stand in stores and hymns will be playing overhead and neither the workers nor they will hear the message that says to them:

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

They will hear this clear declaration that Jesus is God and He has come to save them from their sins. But they won't receive Him; most of them at least. They will not even hear Him or see Him, even though He walks right by. But it is not this way with you. You are chosen of God and blessed. You have reason to rejoice because God, in His kindness, has revealed to you the One who is hidden from the powerful and the kings of the earth. As our text says:

14 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.

My friends, if you see Him today, do not turn away. God, the Creator, who is the light of life for all men, became flesh and walked with us. He is Jesus Christ. Believe in Him. Receive Him. Celebrate Him. Christmas is about receiving the greatest gift. It is about receiving forgiveness of sins. It is about receiving adoption of heaven and it is about receiving God Himself. Jesus is

God.