

# Jesus 101

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory . . . full of grace and truth.”  
—John 1:14

The Kalaupapa peninsula of the paradisiacal island of Molokai, Hawaii, is the site of a leprosy colony where, over the years, thousands lived out their lives with the dreaded disease. Jozef De Veuster, better known as Father Damien, gave his life to touch the untouchable, becoming one with them. Providing physical, spiritual, and emotional support, he served the afflicted in whatever way needed, dressing their wounds, feeding them, and making coffins for them. After eleven years of tending the sick, he contracted leprosy and died on April 15, 1889. He has been called a “martyr of charity” for his work in Kalaupapa, where his compassion remained unshaken by the risks involved.

When we talk about Jesus coming as a Baby in a manger, we are actually discussing a mystery called the Incarnation. When God humbled Himself to become human, He did it in order to redeem us. Amazing! He walked among us, and we saw God in the flesh. And even though He never sinned, He died the death of a criminal and took our sins upon Himself (see 2 Corinthians 5:21). The words used in John 1:14 are of the utmost importance. For example, the word “dwelt” means that He encamped or, in Old Testament language, tabernacled among us. This is a key word derived from the root word used for the tabernacle in the wilderness, where God showed His glory and His Presence resided with His people (see Exodus 40:34, LXX). Now the tabernacle is Jesus Christ, and we see God’s glory through Him; He is the fullest revelation of the glory of God! He is filled with grace and truth! (John 1:14). That God would love us so much as to become one of us, and camp and dwell in our neighborhood, is a mystery that we will ponder for eternity! That He would come from His heavenly throne, become a human being, settle here on this earth, and die in our place, well, it’s an event that we will celebrate forever. And even though we are not able to fully comprehend it all, one thing we know: we are very special to God! And He definitely loves us!