

St Lawrence 18.02.18

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But what if we're right?

In that case here, I believe, is yet another example of what an extraordinary act of sacrifice it is for the God whom we worship as the Power and Mind behind the entire universe to become human. Not only does it involve emptying yourself so much that you can only be in one place at a time; that you are as likely to catch flu or get run over by a chariot as the next person; that you go through sadness, loneliness, anger, pain, bereavement and frustration, emotional feelings that God is not essentially subject to (I choose my words with theological care!); not only so mortal that you, therefore, experience physical death when people nail you to a cross and stick a spear in your side; but also that you take on yourself the very guilt that marks out fallen humanity even though you yourself are totally innocent. Now that really is 'kenosis', an emptying of yourself of everything that marks you out as being wholly other and different from mortal humans. That's what it means to be God Incarnate,

God become human, fully God yet fully man. That's the length and depth to which God is prepared to go, and for no other reason than to 'save' us, whatever that may mean, if we've got it right, as I believe we have.

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Six weeks of giving up biscuits or chocolate or whatever else is one thing, and, I've no doubt highly commendable. But six weeks reflectively, thoughtfully and prayerfully considering whether this is the moment to consider some significant change in your life circumstances would be much more rewarding. "There is a tide in the affairs of men" wrote Shakespeare "which taken at the flood leads to fortune; omitted, all the voyage is bound in shallows and in miseries". Something of an exaggeration, I suspect, but is this, perhaps, your time - or mine - for significant change?

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