

*Let us see the Father,*

says the apostle. Jesus' reply is very challenging:

*To have seen me is to have seen the Father.*

When we meet a family, it is often possible to trace the likeness of the parents in the children. But we depend upon the dual parentage of human parents to variegate the children in every generation. This genetic mingling is essential for the survival of the human race, in its kaleidoscopic changing: always akin to what generates, always different from the generators. This is one excellent reason why the human spirit is revolted by cloning: the ultimate vanity of attempting to perpetuate oneself. The begetting of a human being - according to the mind of God - always involves a surrender of selfhood which, at its best, ensures that children come into being in the context of uncalculating love.

Jesus Christ is the only-begotten of the Father in eternity. This begetting is very different from our own, in time. It is the divine act, the eternal act of being which makes the Holy Trinity: that is why it doesn't take place in time. Being the unique divine begetting - he remains the *only*-begotten Son - the divine life is transmitted to him without alloy, in its fulness. God the Father holds back nothing of his nature in begetting the Son, and the Son receives the divine life whole and perfect.

Therefore he can say to those who meet him these awesome words: *to have seen me is to have seen the Father.*

By the coming of Jesus as a man, it is as if God is translated into human language. But the language of the incarnate Word does not require human words. His being human is the whole miracle; human nature is changed beyond recall simply by his being human. By analogy, we can say of great human beings that they have renewed our idea of what a human being can be. A massive artist, a marvellous healer, a great musician alters the map of humanity. Of Jesus we have to say that he transforms being human for everyone; he shows us the divine life in human form.

In a very important sense we must say that it isn't only by the humanly wonderful deeds that Jesus shows us God in humanity; only when he follows the human way to the end - to death - can he say *It Is Accomplished*: the miracle of God's self-communication is finally complete.