

Second Hand Preacher

4th Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

Matthew 1:18-24

7up is a blend of lemon and lime. The tastes work together well to form my favorite un-cola. Many things have two parts that work in harmony to bring about something great. We have a complex world that is always in need of a Savior. Salvation comes when we are able to repent of our human failings and trust in a triune God that offers us saving grace as a free gift. All we need to do is accept that gift. A gift given that takes darkness and light blending them into a perfect beacon that illuminates heaven.

St. Paul tells of two natures of Christ. He opens this very important letter that was spread all over the universal Church, He recognized the good news of Jesus, the Son of God and Mary, descending down from David. The beloved king was to be the source of the messiah as told by the Hebrew Scriptures. Even though King David had faults, he was still beloved by God. He was an exceptional king and God used his line to be the humanity of Jesus. Jesus remained 100% human in his life, so he knows our human condition. He was like us in all ways but sin.

St. Paul also recognized the divinity of Christ. Jesus came from heaven. He exists forever. God chose to have part of his very self enter the world as a tiny child. This child was the chosen one. Jesus remained 100% God and his divine nature was slowly revealed. This nature allowed him to heal and perform other signs to reassure the people of his divinity. Jesus was also in communion with the Father in prayer. This prayer happened often when Jesus would separate himself and pray to the Father.

May we understand the two parts of Jesus. We spent almost three weeks on Jesus coming again in his divinity. We now focus more closely on his coming into the world. We memorialize his coming through our celebration during this final week and all during the Christmas season.