

## ONE LAST WORD

**T**he One who is equal to God in all things, somehow leaving aside eternity and infinity, came among us embracing all of our limitations. Those he embraced were very concrete: Jesus of Nazareth was born in one place and at one moment. He worked wood with the current tools. He memorized some psalms. He never left his country. He had to choose from among many who would be his friends -- seventy-two, then twelve, then three, no more.

Remarkable as these limitations might seem, one other seems even more remarkable. The One of the Trinity embraced all the limitations of language. The Word of God, who can speak the divine Self to the Other Persons, tried to explain himself in one language of the many thousands. The *Logos*, whose voice resonates intimately in all that is, expressed himself in patchy phrases and paragraphs and the approximations of human syntax. The One who can flood our minds with comprehension closed himself down to persuading with stories and tags from Scripture. He could not possibly tell the infinite wisdom and knowledge that was his from the Father, not in any human tongue and not in all of them together. So "they did not understand him."

All the days of his ministry, Jesus was hemmed in by incomprehension. He was made lonely by not being understood even by his most intimate friends. And he embraced a further limitation that touches us today: he did not write. Humankind knew how to write then, and the great and powerful were encoding laws and writing immortal books. Jesus humbled himself here, too. He wrote nothing down of the most important truths any human tongue ever spoke.

Then his voice died out. Much later, the words he spoke were written down, but only by others and not in his own tongue. The Word of God chose this ultimate limitation, this desperate poverty: language.

His choice confounds human wisdom absolutely, but was blessed by the Father. When He returned to live in our flesh, He brought with Him from the Father a Spirit, who is to reveal all things that Jesus tried to say to the disciples. Those on the road to Emmaus found their hearts on fire as He explained Himself to them. Like them, we ask to be placed with the Son, hoping that his Spirit will set our hearts on fire, and our words.