

Three things which Jesus acquired.

Just prior to His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus told His disciples, 'I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world; again I leave the world, and go to the Father' (John 16. 28).

It struck me many years ago that, when He returned to the Father, the Saviour took with Him three things which He had **acquired** during His 33-year stay in the world. What is more, He possesses those three things to this very moment, and will, indeed, have them forever.

First, He acquired **a nature**. We recently celebrated the momentous event when 'He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all'. But we know that, in doing so, He did not exchange His nature as God for the nature of man. He simply *acquired* a nature that He did not have before, adding sinless human nature to His existing, eternal divine nature. Ever remaining fully God, He became a very real man. 'Being in the form of God ... He took the form of a bondman' (Phil. 2. 6-7).

And the Lord Jesus still has the nature He acquired. . For He didn't give up His human nature when He ascended back to heaven and the Father, any more than He gave up His nature as God when He came out from the Father and came into the world. 'There *is*', Paul wrote, 'one God, and one mediator between God and men; *the man* Christ Jesus'.

But, along with His nature, He also acquired **a name**, to us the lovely name of 'Jesus'. Names such as 'the Lord of hosts' had always been His, but 'Jesus' was a new name He acquired. We can trace that name back at least as far as the successor of Moses, whose name was changed to Joshua, the Hebrew form of Jesus (Num. 13. 16). It was also the name of the last High Priest mentioned in the Old Testament (Haggai 1. 1, 12 etc.). And it was a very common and popular name in New Testament days; scholars refer to over 100 other men of roughly that period with the name 'Jesus'.

But our Lord acquired the name Jesus, not because of the past associations of the name, nor because of its present popularity, but because of its special significance for Him. 'You shall call His name Jesus' the angel Gabriel told Mary, 'for He shall save His people from their sins'.

The Lord Jesus took that name back with Him to heaven. And it is still His name today. Ask Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9. 5) or the apostle John (Rev. 22. 20).

In one sense, it was because of the meaning of His name that He also acquired **a nail-print**. . For He was crucified, and it is by His sacrificial death for us that we have been 'saved' (Rom. 5. 9).

And He still has the marks He acquired at the cross. Both Luke and John record how, following His resurrection, the Lord Jesus appeared to His disciples and 'showed them His hands' (Luke 24. 40; John 20. 20). When the disciples told Thomas (who had been absent at the time), 'We have seen the Lord', he responded, 'Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails ... I will not believe. A week later, Jesus came again and invited the then present Thomas, 'Put your finger here' (John 20. 25-27).

And we know that the Lord Jesus has acquired the nail-print for ever. For 'the Lamb' in the midst of the throne of God, bears still the memorials of His death (Rev. 5. 9).

Thank God today that (whatever your outward, earthly circumstances) *you* have the immense privilege of belonging to the company which the Living Lord is **acquiring** for Himself today, and which will (along with His nature, His name, and His nail-print) be His forever.