



## St John Lutheran Church

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Text: Philippians 2:5-11

Theme: A Time for Humility

**The Webster's Unabridged Dictionary** defines "**humble**" as; "**not proud or arrogant...modest.**" **Humility is defined as "being humble."** **The Latin root** to these words is "**humus,**" which is plain old common dirt.

**The world does** not rate humility very high. **The world tells** us that the strong shall survive or in other words, "**blessed are the strong who can hold their own.**" **Yet, Jesus says** in Matthew 5, "**Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Kingdom of God.**" **And we read** in James Ch. 4, "**God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.**"

**In our text,** we read in Paul's letter to the Philippians, how our Lord humbled Himself for us... **He became** of low and common estate for us. **First, we must** realize that no one forced Jesus to do what He did for us. **He was not** coerced, He was not bullied, He was not, **in any way,** compelled by any other to do what He did for us. **Jesus did all** that He came to do, purely out of His love for us.

**We must remember** who we are talking about here. **We are dealing** with the 2nd person of the Holy Trinity, **who was and is God Almighty.** **In the Gospel** of John verses 1-14, we have the account of who Jesus is, and most especially we have the account of who Jesus **was,** before He humbled Himself for us. **We are told** in that text that Jesus is the Word of God, that He was with God and that **HE WAS AND IS GOD!!** **Further, we are** told that Jesus is the Light and the Life of men. **This, then, is** the One who humbled Himself for us.

**Verses 5-8 of** our text for today, "**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled Himself, and became obedient until death, even death on a cross.**"

**Jesus emptied Himself...** He literally suppressed His Divinity... He put that away. **He suppressed all** of the Glory... **all** of the fellowship... **and** all of the honor... **and** He became a servant for us. **Make no mistake, Jesus, in the form of a man, was and still is God.** **But the high** exalted position of power He had in Heaven... He vacated to come and be our servant. **The moment of** Jesus conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary, was the beginning of Jesus humiliation here on earth. **Yet, He was** still God. **Quite literally, He** is the God/Man with the nature of man as well as the nature of God... **inseparable,** in one very unique person.

**That Jesus is** a man was obvious to all who looked at Him. **He looked no** different than you and I look. **He ate, He** slept, worked and became tired. He got angry at times, and He was sad at times. **In all respects,** He was just like us... **except** without sin.

**That He is** God is borne out by His many miracles. **From healing the** sick and infirm... **to** feeding thousands with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish... **to** controlling the wind and the sea in a storm, to raising the dead. **That He is** God, is borne out by His ability to predict all that would happen to Him during His passion, death and resurrection. **And that Jesus** is God, is borne out by His own confession and testimony before the High Priest Caiaphas, (Matt. 26) and Pilate (Matt. 27).

**Yet, Jesus did** not come to be a King, like the Kings we have who seek power, pomp, and ceremony. **No, Jesus came** to be humble and to serve us. **He came to** fulfill the Law of God, and live it perfectly for us, on our behalf. **That meant that** He must satisfy God's justice for our sins, which is all the wrong we have done...**He** had to die the death we deserve. **So Jesus obeyed** all of God's Laws, and He obeyed to the point where He would pay the penalty of our crimes and suffer, and die, on the cross in our place. **This He did** willingly... so that you and I might not be condemned.

**Isaiah 53:4-5, "Surely, He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him, stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed."**

**All of this** came about because Jesus humbled Himself to become a servant. **That is our** example. **We are to**, as Paul says, "**Have this mind among yourselves...**" **We are to** have this Christ-like mind-set when we deal with our fellow man. **Verse 3 of this text, "Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves."**

**Christ's example**, as well as Paul's' counsel, tells us that we are to serve others, and we are to esteem them ...**even** above ourselves. **That is a** tall order for we who tend, by nature, to look only to our own good. **But, we are** to remember who we are as God's own children. **We are to**, at all times, and in all places, reflect the same love and selflessness that Jesus showed to us... **to** all of those around us. **We do that** so that people can see just what kind of a loving and caring God we have as our Father ....**Just as Jesus** revealed the loving and gracious nature of God to us by His actions and by His sacrifice on the cross for us...**we** are to take His life as our model, so that we too may reveal this kind of caring God to others.

**We have several** opportunities to show our humble and "**Christ-like**" service to others. **We can do** this in the home, where we read in Ephesians, that husbands are to love their wives, as they love themselves and care for them as Christ cares for the Church. **And wives are** to recognize the headship of their husbands in the family, **just** as they recognize the headship of Christ in the Church.

**This is done** not because husbands are better than wives, or because women are not as good as men...**Christ died** for us all, but this is done because that is the order that God instituted. **Children are to** obey their parents as in the Lord, for this is right, as Paul says. **Such are acts** of God-pleasing service and humility in the home.

**We have many** opportunities for humble service in our own church. **We talked about** this a couple of weeks ago, and the list for service here is as diverse as you care to make it... **or** as simple as visiting shut-ins, and comforting them with your Christian fellowship. **We must remember** that humble service in our Lord's name, no matter how small, is something our Lord notices, **because** the Church is what He suffered and died for.

**We can display** humble service in the public arena as some in our congregation do, **or we can** simply be a Christian example by being good citizens as Paul tells us in Romans 13.

**Submitting to those** in authority, is pleasing to God, because not only does it set a good example to those around us, but it is also a submission to those who God **PUT** in authority. "**Let every soul be subject unto higher powers. For there is no power but of God...**" Romans 13:1 **As hard as** it is to sometimes believe, **all of those** in authority over us, **no matter** how corrupt or evil, **do so** only by God's will and by His power.

**With all that** I have said in mind, **with** all of those opportunities for humble service available to us, **we are** to remember the greatest service that we can render to our fellow man...**that service** is sharing the Gospel of our Lord to those around us. **We are to** remember that we are our Lord's means of spreading His life-giving Word. **Our task, is** as He tells us in Matt. 28 to "**go and teach all nations whatsoever I have commanded you,**

**baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and Holy Spirit..." And by teaching others, we put them in contact with God's Word, so that they may learn of the life we have in Christ, and because of Christ. Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." PAUSE Sharing Jesus with others is service of the highest order and priority.**

**What is the result of humble service? The result for Jesus was that He was exalted. He went into the grave, a humble, beaten, tortured and a very dead man. The grave could not hold Him. He was raised never to be humiliated again. He was raised, because His sacrifice for us was accepted by the Father. Romans 4:25 "Who delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification."**

**Because of His humble service, Jesus was placed at God's right hand in the heavenly place. Eph 1:20. This suffering servant completed His work to be raised in glory and then placed at God's right hand...the place of highest honor and power. Jesus name was put above all others names... He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords...1st Timothy 6:15, Rev. 17:14, and 19:16, and Isaiah 9:6-7. Before Him every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord... and in Heaven we will join with all the angels and archangels singing, "worthy is the Lamb that was slain..." Rev. 5:12**

**That is Jesus' reward... but He didn't do all He did for the glory and honor He now enjoys. Remember, He already had all of that before He came as a poor child born in a stable. Jesus did all He did... He suffered all His pain and His humiliation for you and for me. We are the little children that He wants to come to Him so that He may bless us... And bless us He will. He brings us into the faith to save us from eternal death, but also that we might serve Him and thereby bring others to hear His name... this so they too might be saved. The whole purpose for our humble service in Christ's name is to demonstrate His love for all men so they too might share in Christ's Kingdom.**

**All of this has a purpose and a reward. The purpose, I just mentioned, to bring others to Christ, not to save ourselves, Jesus did that for us. The reward is that we too are to share in Christ's exaltation. Jesus won for us everlasting life...not to be slaves to Him, but to share with Him what He has earned for us. Jesus says in Matt. 25:34, "Then shall the king say to them on His right hand, 'Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"**

**That is our great hope and promise!! This hope, and this promise, encourages us to live lives of humble service in Christ's name...not to earn our salvation... but in gratitude to the One who has literally made it possible, for us who should be condemned, not only to live, but to live with Him as exalted members of God's Family.**

**SLOWLY**

**How great is our hope in Christ!! How great is the gift we have been given in Christ! What incentive and example His love is for each of us. We can be humble servants of Christ by sharing with others the Good News of our Lord Jesus, who once came in meekness and humility, but now reigns as Lord of Lord's and King of Kings. Such is our Joy! In the Name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit...Amen**

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