



# PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11; JOHN 13:12-17

## LESSON: A HUMBLE LORD IS BORN — December 26, 2021

### INTRODUCTION: PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

**2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory:—** Paul gives two negative attitudes to stay away from:

1. Strife
  - a. <sup>1</sup>Where you have this kind of behavior, you have a divided church.
  - b. It is a work of the flesh through selfish ambition, self-assertiveness, and conceit —wanting to promote his own cause—empty glory.
  - c. It is the total opposite of the work of the Holy Spirit.
  - d. It is the result of any church or individual's behavior where God's love is absent.
2. Vainglory
  - a. Those that are operating against Christ and in competition with Him.
  - b. It is the exact opposite of the one who should get all of the glory, and His name is Jesus Christ.

Nothing is to be done through conflict, fighting, contention, or discord; neither done through empty, proud, or groundless self-esteem.

**2:3b...but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.** "**But**" is a conjunction, meaning "*instead of the other.*" Therefore, instead of strife and vainglory **lowliness of mind** is what I want you to display. Lowliness of mind means— 1.) Humility of mind (be humble-minded. 2.) Self-forgetfulness in serving others (*forgetting about self to serve*). So, "*esteem*" (*regard and respect*) others above ourselves. The Christlike spirit of humility fixes its eyes on the excellency of others. God has placed excellency in others, and we are to look for that excellency in them by esteeming the greatness in them. We are placing ourselves lower than others with an attitude of respect. It's the same as respecting your elders.

**2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.** The word "*look*" means to mentally consider, regarding something as an aim. However, we are not to look, consider, regard our aim toward self. Discipleship focuses on other people not, selfish purposes. By doing this and giving it our priority, we are imitating the humility of Christ, while staying in unity.

### LESSON: I. EMPTIED PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

**2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:—** "**Let**" means allow, consent to. It's something **you** have to do. The word "*mind*" here does not mean mental activity or intellectual process. It's an act of the Will, allowing your attitude to be like Christ as He had while here on earth. Christ demonstrated a humble mind (attitude) and behavior. How did He do that? By being obedient to the Father. By not selfishly demanding His divine rights. Yes, our supreme example of humility is divine by nature, but He did not seek royal treatment. He emptied Himself and took the role of a servant. He obeyed the Father's plan to the end by dying on an Old Rugged Cross for our sins. Having the mind of Christ is lowering oneself. That was the ultimate example! What an incredible example of attitude for the believer to follow. Jesus set and focused His attitude upon humbling Himself. He set the "*bar.*" He met our need as He humbled Himself to show what the mind of Christ looks like; what the attitude of Christ could be acquired. <sup>2</sup>If Jesus regarded no sacrifice too great, no humiliation too painful, should not we have this sacrificial attitude toward fellow Christians?

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fotbc.org/commentary/50philippians.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://versebyversecommentary.com/category/philippians/page/16/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



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**2:6 Who, being in the form of God:—** This is fundamentally about what He was and what we are to think of Him to be, before He became man. The phrase "**who being**" (*huparchōn*) **in the form of God** implies His preexistent deity, and His continued deity. It denotes prior existence. Jesus existed as God. Paul's purpose here is not to explain the mystery of the Trinity, but to use it to illustrate the great sacrifice Christ made in becoming a human being. He gave up the glory of heaven to become a human. The word "**form**" (*morphē*) does not mean shape, but it is "the nature or essence" living in the individual. Christ preexisted in the "form of God." His very form—the essential nature and character—identified Him as God. When Mary became impregnated, the Angel Gabriel told her the Holy Ghost shall come upon her and the power of the Highest shall overshadow her—that Holy thing which shall be born shall be called the Son of God! While on earth, the form of God still existed—His prior existence and His nature and essence still existed in the womb! The form of God will always be seen in the Person of Christ which includes the whole nature and essence of His Deity; will be retained as long as He exists and that's Forever!

**2:6b...thought it not robbery to be equal with God:—** God came in humility as a baby. Jesus did not regard His position as equal with God the Father as something to hold onto, but as something to be relinquished for the redemption of men. He gave up the throne in glory for a cross of shame and suffering. He did not obtain anything, including His deity by force or use force to seize, by robbery and usurpation, as Satan attempted to do. He did no injury, nor deprived Himself of any glory, or assumed to Himself which did not belong to Him. He was God! Just as He laid His life down for man on a cross, He laid down His rights of Divine Majesty to become a Son on earth; He set aside the use of His essence of God, because of His mission. His mission had Him to respond in a different way as to not be equal to God. "**Equal**" means one and the same. He was one and the same, meaning God. He was absolute in that equality. He was eternally conscious of His existence with the Trinity. But his mission took another course. When Christ went to the cross, He fulfilled the role of the Son and the Savior—the original plan of the Father. They had a meeting: The spoken plan of the Father—became the plan of the Son. The Father is the Administrator—The Son Becomes the Plan. It's carried out by the Power of the Holy Spirit—The Trinity is One! Jesus gave up the glory of heaven to become a human. He gave up His big mansion for a while as the Father is always to take center stage. He's doing what He's telling us to do in verse 3 and 4—in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

**2:7 But made himself of no reputation...:—** "**No reputation**" literally means He "emptied" Himself. He renounced and set aside His privileges. He began to do that when He came in human form as a baby. His reputation was not seen. He began to do that when He fasted and went into the wilderness, and the tempter came to tempt Him and said "If you be the Son of God..."(Matt.4:3); the second time the devil took Him into the Holy City on a pinnacle of the temple and said "If thou be the Son of God..."(Matt.4:6); the third time the devil took Him to an exceeding high mountain and said, "Fall down and worship me"(Matt.4:9); Christ emptied Himself by saying "It is written" each time went. Christ reputation was not seen for He emptied Himself from something, that is, the form of God. He set aside His privileges; His rights. He did not cease to be what He essentially and eternally was. He did not empty Himself of being the Godhead. He set aside and took upon Himself the form of a servant. When you empty yourself and want to be like Christ, what do you do?

**2:7b ...and took upon him the form of a servant...—** Paul uses the same *Gr.* word "**form**" (V6), He

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was the God-man; fully God and fully man. He "took upon Himself the form of a servant." His humanity was the vehicle through which He manifested Himself as a slave. The essential nature and character—identified Him as a human being. This was not forced upon Him. He was not manipulated into doing this. He did it of His own free Will. He was a servant to His Father and a servant to His people partly by preaching the Gospel to them, and partly by working miracles, healing their diseases, and going about doing good, both to the bodies and souls of men.<sup>3</sup>We do everything in our power to build a reputation. Yet, Jesus shelved His rights as God. He thought more of us than He did of His reputation.

**2:7c ...and was made in the likeness of men:—** <sup>4</sup>"Likeness" refers to an outward expression that is assumed from the outside and does not come from within. "Likeness" means similarity, but not sameness. Christ was not identical with man, in that He could not sin. He was exposed and tempted to the things man would be tempted and exposed to, but He was sinless; He did not sin. "Likeness" protects that distinction. His deity remained through humiliation. He lost nothing of what He had. His glory of His divine nature was covered, and out of sight; and though some rays and beams of it broke through in His works and miracles, His servanthood was displayed. As Jesus went around preaching and healing, He did all His acts not as God, but as the servant of God in the likeness of man. The purpose was not for Jesus to emulate us (man), but for man to emulate Him being a servant. He relinquished rights to be made in the likeness of men to serve which was unfamiliar for man. He still became a person to whom people refused to give honor.

**2:8 And being found in fashion as a man..:—** The word "**fashion**" points to an external appearance. While men recognized Him as a true man. He was not just a man. He was fully man (Heb. 2:14, 17), but He was also sinless (4:15) and fully God (Col. 1:15; 2:9. <sup>5</sup>His fashion, His form, were like that of other men; though He was not begotten as man, but conceived in an extraordinary manner by the power of the Holy Ghost, yet He lay nine months in His mother's womb, born as children are, grew in stature; He hungered, was thirsty, became weary, in pain, experienced grief, sorrow, and death itself—all of what man goes through, yet, He was fully God and fully man. Jesus was both absolute deity and true humanity. He was always God who became man.

**2:8b ...he humbled himself and became obedient unto death...:—** First thing is He humbled Himself by complying to the Will of His Father and to His parents (had a trade as a carpenter, washed His disciples' feet, and even forgave His enemies). He was obedient from the cradle to the cross. Christ humbled Himself by becoming a man, but also, He humbled Himself in dying for man. He didn't have to do either one, but He did both. He knew the plan, became the plan, and carried out the plan by the power of the Spirit of God. To humble oneself involves "**volition**" (a Will, a decision, a choice). He chose to die!

**2:8c ....even the death of the cross:—** For Jesus to die was not unique; everyone dies. However, the most despised death of a condemned criminal was on an accursed cross. When slaves were executed, they were crucified. Christ placed Himself on the same plane as the worst of criminals. He says, "*No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father*" *Jh.10:18 (NIV)*. Jesus did not stop halfway. He showed the mark of a slave/a servant in His obedience. He never was death's slave, but death's master and conqueror.

<sup>3</sup> <http://versebyversecommentary.com/category/philippians/page/16/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?lect\\_date=3/16/2008&tab=3](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?lect_date=3/16/2008&tab=3)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/geb/view.cgi?book=php&chapter=002&verse=008>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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<sup>6</sup>The cross was the goal of the incarnation. Jesus was nailed to the cross and with Him the judgments of the law against us. *"Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements [the law] that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" Col. 2:14 (NKJ).*

- The cross is the focal point of God's dealings with us. That is where our redemption from sin was worked out. By shedding His blood on the cross, He paid the price for all sin for all time. *"...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing (crediting) their trespasses to them..." II Cor. 5:19 (NKJ).*
- The cross is a bloody issue with which to deal. The cross is offensive to many people, especially religious people (Gal. 5:11). Religion leads people to believe that if they lead a decent life, they will be acceptable to God. That's why people run to religion to tell them that they are "ok." It becomes offensive and distasteful, causing them to not want to accept that it was the cross and not man having the power to save. If Christ did not die there, there would be no salvation for man. Only the cross of Christ could save us from our sin. God's best was on a distasteful cross, and it's not to offend us, but to save us!

## II. EXALTED PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

**2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him:**— *"Wherefore"*, determines a reason or purpose for something. Jesus went from the highest point imaginable—the *"form of God" (the essence of God)*, to the lowest place conceivable—the *"death of the cross."* The "reason" or the "wherefore" for God's exaltation of Christ is contained in verses 6-8. It was because of the journey Christ took, God exalted Him. It was because Christ humbled Himself as an obedient servant, God exalted Him, and raised Him from the dead and enthroned Him in heaven. It's true God exalts those who humble themselves. Lk.14:11 says, "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Just as Jesus taught others, it was by humbling Himself as a servant that He became greatest of all. To exalt Him is one thing, but it says He was *"highly"* exalted! That's another thing. Because of His voluntary renunciation, obedience, and death, God exalted Him supremely. He was never to stay on the cross; He was never to stay in the tomb. He said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" Jh.2:19. He was referring to the destruction of His body and to His resurrection from the dead. When Christ's body was destroyed, the purpose and existence of the Jewish Temple were also destroyed. The task was done. Before He died, He prayed, "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began" Jh.17:5 (NIV). He was highly exalted!

- <sup>7</sup>The first step of Christ's exaltation was His resurrection from the dead. His body became a glorious body; raised in incorruption; glorified as Mediator; justified in the Spirit and acquitted and discharged from all the sins of His people; and all God's elect were justified in Him, for He rose, for their justification; and was glorified.
- The next step of His high exaltation was His ascending on high up to the third heaven, where He is made higher than the heavens; when He was accompanied by an innumerable company of angels, and by those saints whose bodies rose out of their graves after His resurrection; and was received and carried up in a bright glorious cloud; and passing through the air, He led captivity captive, and triumphed over principalities and powers, having before spoiled them on His cross;

<sup>6</sup> <http://versebyversecommentary.com/category/philippians/page/15/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/geb/view.cgi?book=php&chapter=002&verse=009>

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and then entering into heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God, which is another branch of His exaltation; and shows that he had done His work, and that it was approved and accepted.

**2:9b...and given him a name which is above every name:—** <sup>8</sup>The word "name" is equivalent to character. Character is beyond reputation. A person might have a good reputation but not have integrity. A person might have a talent but no character. A name spells out who and what a person is. Becoming a Christian has to do with Jesus' name:

- *John 1:12 "...to those who believe in his name."*
- *John 3:18"...because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*
- *Acts 4:12"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
- Prayer is to be executed in Jesus' name, *John 14:13, 14"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."*

What name is that? The name Jesus had already been given to Him. The name most likely in view here is "Lord" (verse 11). The word translated "Lord" (*kurios*) was used of Yahweh, the God of Israel, in the Greek translation of the Old Testament. God gave Jesus the very name of God: "Yahweh" (in Hebrew) and "Lord" (in Greek). God has placed Him in rank above everyone and everything else. To not appreciate who we are in Christ is to diminish what Jesus did for you. Scripture affirms that this was Jesus' rightful title as the God-man. Now He is openly and manifestly glorified with Himself, with the glory He had with Him before the world began.

**2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth:—** All worship is to focus on Jesus Christ. To bow one's knee meant to recognize and acknowledge one in authority. Jesus will be acknowledged as the ultimate authority—God. To illustrate total submission, Paul says that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of...

- things "in heaven" means angels and people who have gone to heaven,
- things "on earth" refers to human beings who are alive in time,
- things "under the earth" probably refers to fallen angels will bow.

Even during Christ's earthly ministry, the demons recognized Him for who He was and trembled at His authority. After resurrection, Jesus said to His disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" *Matt.28:16 (NIV)*. Every being has to recognize the supreme authority of Christ. We can do it now as we submit our lives to Him, or we can do it at the judgment when we will all stand before His throne.

**2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord:—** Actions will not only indicate the sovereignty of Christ, but words will as well. Every tongue belonging to all beings spoken of in verse 10 will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, that He is Yahweh; that He is the One True God. Jesus has all rights to my life: He is my Master. It will be confessed! It is acknowledging a debt owed. It will be "confessed out." This is an outward consent; an open consent that is, publicly, that Jesus is Lord.

**2:11b ...to the glory of God the Father:—** When we acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus, we glorify the Father. God the Father is glorified and is highly exalted when men openly acknowledge Christ as Lord.

<sup>8</sup> <http://versebyversecommentary.com/category/philippians/page/15/>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



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## III. HUMILITY IN ACTION JOHN 13:12-17

**13:12** So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, **Know ye what I have done to you?**— Jesus and His disciples are in the upper room right before the Passover, and the supper has ended. Jesus came to the earth realm as a baby in humility. And as He continued in life, that same humility followed Him, for now He humbles Himself by washing the feet of His disciples. He has taken His garments (that is, put on His outer garments) and sits down saying, "Do you know what I have just done to you?" Well, Jesus is showing His disciples how to be servants to others.

**13:13** **Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.** Jesus lets the disciples know that what they've said was right (13:6, 9; 11:28), that they've called Him, "Master and Lord." Service looks like this...

- 1 The servant of Jesus must serve Jesus. Service is willingly and lovingly rendered.

**13:14** **If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.** Even though Jesus is their Master and Lord, He's teaching them how to humble themselves. If Jesus is Master and Lord and have washed their feet, then they should be willing to wash one another's feet.

2. The servant of Jesus must serve other believers.

Then the question is "who are we willing to serve?" The ones we like, or can we serve the ones we don't like? I know God is still working on us about the second one. But we have to remember He washed Judas' feet. ❤️

**13:15** **For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.** Service is threefold.

1. A believer is to serve because of Jesus' example.

Jesus says that He is their example. This is not an ordinance or command of foot-washing, but just to do as He had done in showing and performing with an act or example of humility, service, and love to others.

**13:16** **Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.**

2. A believer is to serve because believers are not as great as the Lord.

- In person and position
- Or
- In mission and work.

Jesus wants all of us to remember that truly, truly the servant is not greater than his Lord, neither of the One who sent the Lord.

**13:17** **If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.**

3. A believer is to serve because of the resulting joy received.

Jesus has shown them what service is; He's given them an example; He's let them know that they are not greater than the Lord or the One that sent Him, then if the disciples know these things, and do these things willingly, then they will be happy to continuously do them (that is serving with humility out of love).

## SUMMARY: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Paul gives the perfect example of the mind which Christians should possess, which was in verses 3-4. *We should have the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, for He always had the nature of God. However, He did not think that He should hold on to His rights and honour as God. But instead, He made Himself*

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*have no reputation. And He became a servant. He came in the form of a man. As a man He was humble. He obeyed God. So, He was prepared to die – even to die on a cross (2:5-8).*

*For this reason, God raised Him up to the highest place. God has given Him the name that is higher than any other name. So, in honour of the name of Jesus, every being in heaven, on earth and beneath the earth shall kneel. And all will declare that Jesus Christ is Lord. In this way, honour will come to God the Father" (2:9-11) (The Easy English Bible Version).*

## **SUMMARY: JOHN 13:12-17**

12 Jesus and his disciples are in the upper room right before the Passover, and the supper has ended. Jesus is showing His disciples how to be servants to others, so He washed the feet of His disciples. He has taken His garments and again He sits down saying, "Do you know what I have just done to you?" 13 Jesus says you call me "Master and Lord." He lets the disciples know that what they have said is right, because He is. 14 Even though Jesus is their Master and Lord, He's teaching them how to humble themselves. And if He's Master and Lord and have washed their feet, then they should be willing to wash one another's feet. 15 Jesus says that He is their example, and that they should do as He has done in showing and performing with an act or example of humility, service, and love to others. 16 The disciples are to remember that truly, truly the servant is not greater than his Lord, neither are they greater of the One who sent the Lord. 17 Jesus has shown them that if the disciples know these things, and do these things, then they will be happy to continuously do them (that is humbly serving out of love).

## **APPLICATION:**

We will be forever asking ourselves, WWJD? His attitude was never with a selfish motive, but one of servanthood. His ambition was never about Himself, but of the Father's Will. His nature was that of a servant, which concludes how our ministry should be. In the end, exaltation came from the Father, not from man. It was all about the attitude in which He approached and did things. Jesus was highly exalted because He honored the Father in everything He did. As we empty ourselves, not esteeming ourselves, we become like Him. Can we wash the feet of others?