

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE 12.4.22

Come Adore the Humble King | Philippians 2:6-11

from the series, Sing We Now of Christmas

We see the theology of Christmas on every page of scripture. In Philippians 2, we see a lesson on Christology—specifically on the humility of Christ in the incarnation.

MAIN IDEA: Humility is perfected in the incarnation of Christ.

1. His Rights Surrendered (v. 6)

“who, though he was in the form of God”

Jesus was and is God. He is co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existent with God the Father. There has never been a time when Jesus was not God (cf. John 1:1; 8:58, Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3).

“did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”

As he was in the form of his Father, Jesus possessed all the attributes and characteristics of divinity. His nature was that of God, but Christ set aside the prerogatives that were his. Jesus did not hold on to his deity.

2. His Riches Suspended (v. 7)

“but emptied himself”

Christ “emptied himself” of his glory, his honor, majesty and the privileges that were his in heaven. He chose to be born as a baby, live as a man, suffer as an outcast and die as a criminal (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9). He was emptied not by subtraction but by addition. He took on human flesh and in so doing divested himself of his divine characteristics and attributes.

“by taking the form of a servant”

Christ the heavenly sovereign became an earthly servant (Mark 10:45; Matt. 20:28). He was first a slave to God, and second a slave to men. He traded his crown for a cross. He exchanged glory for a grave. He even gave up his relationship with his Father (Matt. 27:46).

“being born in the likeness of men”

Jesus became human. This is the mystery of the incarnation. He is fully God and fully man. “Likeness” is not saying that Jesus was not a man. Instead, it is saying that he appeared to be nothing more than a man. He was not merely what he appeared to be. One could not look at him and know that he was God. Having become a man, he was recognized as a man.

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3. His Reputation Subverted (v. 8)

“And being found in human form”

The incarnation is not an exchange of divinity for humanity. He became something more than what he was before. He had never been human before, but now he was the God-man.

“he humbled himself”

In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed to his Father, “not my will but yours be done,” (cf. Luke 22:39-46). His will was crucified in the garden the night before his body would be crucified on the cross.

“by becoming obedient to the point of death”

Jesus died a voluntary death, in humble obedience to his Father, to become a penal substitutionary atonement for us (John 10:17-18). Jesus was not obedient to death. Rather, Jesus was obedient unto death. In other words, he was so obedient to the Father’s will that his obedience cost Jesus his life.

“even death on a cross.”

Death on the cross was the most ugly, torturous death imaginable. He bore our sins on a tree (Gal. 3; 1 Peter 3). The crucifixion was the ultimate degradation. Jesus was not looking out for his own personal interest, but for ours.

All sin is rooted in pride. The Scriptures stand united: God hates pride. Christ is the model servant, who was the epitome of humility. To follow Christ is to “deny yourself” and walk the humble road (Luke 9:23). James 4:10 states “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” Those who follow Jesus should be the most humble people on the planet. Further, we are never more like Jesus than when we serve.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What does it mean to be humble? How does Jesus set the ultimate example for humility?**
- 2. Jesus is “of the same substance” as God the Father. How is this different from being of a similar substance?**
- 3. How can we fight pride in our own lives?**



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