

## Christmas Through the Eyes of Jesus Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. – Pray

There was a woman – last minute shopping 2 days before Christmas – the store was crowded and she lost track of her 4 year old son.

A) She quickly backtracked and found her son staring at a Nativity set there in the store. She says – THERE YOU ARE

B) The little boy says – LOOK MOMMY IT IS THE BABY JESUS!

C) She grabbed him by the hand and said: *mommy doesn't have time for that She needs to go home and get ready for Christmas.*

D) Unfortunately that is the Mindset of many during the Christmas season –

1) all the parties, shopping, gatherings,  
They forget what it is we are celebrating

That is one of the reasons here at CV we usually take some time in December to dedicate some Sunday teachings to the Christmas story

A) The Christmas Story is grand and Epic –

B) filled with Suspense and many monumental moments – and miracles.

**C) This year: Christmas through the Eyes....  
Joseph, Wed night – Prophecy – last week Mary –  
1) Next week the Wisemen**

I have Seen series include: Eyes of The Shepherds - the Angels, even The Donkey

A) But the one person who often gets left out of a series like this is Jesus

B) What was the first Christmas like for him

**C) Focus today: Christmas through the eyes of Jesus himself!**

D) Our text here in Philippians 2 is considered to be one of the most Radical passages in all of the Bible.

**It describes what Jesus did in coming to earth.**

**A) It is called the Kenosis of Christ or the self-emptying of Christ**

**B) Today as we breakdown this passage –  
We will learn 3 things about what Christmas meant to Jesus**

**#1 Christmas to Christ meant Selflessness**

A) We are told this of Jesus in V.6 -<sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

B) If anyone ever had the right to be self-centered, it was Jesus Christ.

C) Notice first of all the word being: The word here used for being speaks of existence –

D) It means that he lived before he came at Bethlehem. - HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN.

E) If we are to understand the greatness of Jesus,  
1) we have to understand that he did not begin his life when he was born at Bethlehem.

John's Gospel:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-3

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Being in the form of God = the express image:

A) All that is God is Jesus! 100%

Hebrews 1:2,3 "God has in these last days spoken to us by his son, who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power."

B) Fully God. 100% God – But then Paul says  
<sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

C) Now this is a hard passage to understand in the NKJV – Consider it robbery doesn't make sense to us  
1) We think of Robbery has something unlawfully taken

Some other translations translate this better: CSB – He did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited.

A) The ESV renders it as something to be grasped – the idea being held on at all cost

B) The Amplified is the most helpful Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], He did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained,

C) He didn't grab his equality with God and hold it selfishly – "Not letting go of this – no way."  
1) Not stepping off of my throne in Heaven

<sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, {Status meant nothing to Jesus  
A) Now understand when Jesus came to earth – he in no way ceased being God.

**B) He did not set aside his Deity  
1) If Jesus set aside his deity and was not God when he was here, then he could not save us.**

C) One man cannot save the whole world by his death – only God can do that.

So Jesus was Fully God – yet Fully man  
A thousand times in History a Baby has become a King but only once in History has a King become a Baby

**In Jesus divine omnipotence moved in a human arm;  
In Jesus divine wisdom was cradled in a human brain;  
In Jesus divine love throbbed in a human heart;**

**In Jesus divine compassion glistened in a human eye;**

**In Jesus divine grace poured forth in human lips**

So what does it mean that Jesus emptied himself or made himself of no reputation?

A) Again the Amplified is helpful

<sup>7</sup> But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], Philippians 2:6-7

**Think about the Significance of that Moment –  
God the Son – leaving Heaven & all of its Glory!!!  
A) He steps out of heaven and into a Womb!**

B) There he is on a throne in Glory –  
Here he is born in a cave – a barn

C) There He is spirit – Here he would take on flesh and blood

D) There He is the Creator and sustainer of the Universe –

1) Here he would make himself dependent on the umbilical cord of his mother for his very survival

"He who was larger than the universe became an embryo, and he who sustains the world with a word chose to be dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl. God as a fetus. Holiness sleeping in a womb. The creator of life being created. God was given eyebrows, elbows, two kidneys, and a spleen. He stretched against the walls and floated in the amniotic fluids of his mother." Max Lucado

There He has been Worshipped

A) Here he would experience what it is like to be Weary

B) There He is the Ruling one – Holding a Sceptor / Here He is the Little one holding a piece of straw in his Little Baby fist

C) There He is known as the Mighty God / Here He will be known as a lunatic, drunkard, glutton and a friend of the wrong kind of people

D) There He dwelt in perfection / Here He will be surrounded by sin and imperfection

1) There He is Loved & Adored by all –

2) Here He would be hated & Scorned by Most

E) There He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah / the Conquering one /

1) Here He led like a lamb to the slaughter

So He emptied himself of his Privileges

A) And another thing this means is that his glory was concealed in his humanity

B) Moses asked to see God's Glory- It would kill him – But Jesus said Seen me seen the father. – Just not the glory

C) Judas at betrayal – how will we know..... – oh you will know – Human light bulb – Halo

D) Glimpse of it at the Mt of Transfiguration – Shined like the sun

**So #1 Christmas to Jesus meant Selflessness**

**#2 Christmas to Jesus meant Surrender**

taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient

A) He who was in the form of God – took the form – of a bondservant

B) Now those of you who are Bible students know that the word Bondservant means a willing servant

1) After seven years the slave could choose.

C) He who was in the form of God – the exact representation – took the form of a bondservant –

1) the exact representation of one who is submitted and surrendered out of love to another

Jesus made a willing choice to leave heaven – He wasn't just submitted or obedient to the plan of his father –

A) He was surrendered to it willingly out of Love

B) Hebrews 10:5-7 Gives us a glimpse of the surrender of Jesus as he stands at the Doorway of Heaven -before coming to earth

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. <sup>6</sup> In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come — In the volume of the book it is written of Me — To do Your will, O God.'" <sup>8</sup>

C) He became a servant:

1) The self-emptying of Christ means this, that Jesus divested himself of the independent use of his attributes.

D) He never gave his Divine attributes away,

1) but he voluntarily did not choose to use them apart from his father will, plan and directive

During the first 30 years of his life,

A) You never see Jesus using one of his attributes as God to change anything.- A Chair

B) On the Cross he could have called down a legion of Angels to aid him but he didn't –

1) He was surrendered to His father

C) He served His Father by serving others

I am among you as one who serves – Luke 22:27

The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:28

D) John 13 – The Ultimate picture of a servant Jesus washed the disciples feet

1) on the night before the Cross

**So Christmas to Jesus meant Selflessness**

**#2 Christmas to Jesus meant Surrender**

**#3 Christmas to Jesus meant Sacrifice**

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

A) Here is the thing that we must never forget at Christmas time –

B) The baby that was born and laid in the manger was born to die

C) Revelation 13:8 is an incredible verse Jesus was the lamb slain from before the foundation of the world.

**That means the Story begins in heaven – before the world was even made**

A) God the father & God the Son are in a meeting – considering what they are about to do –

B) Create a World

C)Before they created the Galaxies / before the sun, the moon, the Stars were thrust into space /  
1)before the planets were aligned - And before this Planet called Earth was brought into Existence

D)They had a meeting about a Creature who would reside on planet earth – A creature called man  
1)A being who would be unlike any other being ever created /

**For they would declare *Gen. 1 Lets us make man in our Image***

A)For he would have a BODY– he would be Physical, touchable, tangible

B)He would have a SOUL Conscience feelings & Emotions

C)He would have a SPIRIT – giving him the unique ability to commune w/ God / to Know God

D)He would be unlike any other creature that God would make to Dwell on Planet earth

He would have the ABILITY to bring God Pleasure / but even more Pain

A)Man would have the Ability to Warm God's heart / but also to break God's heart /

B)And God knew that before man was even Made

C)They knew man would rebel / that He would turn his back on God / that he would sin

D)They knew that Man's Sin would drive a wedge between Man & God /

E)Man slave to his sin / passions / source of evil  
1)They knew what it would cost them to Love man & have that relationship w/ man Restored

They Knew What it would mean to Show man how much they loved him / They knew it would cost Everything !!!

A)They knew it would cost them EVERYTHING

B)And they knew that there would not be any guarantee that Man would change /

1)that he would love God & desire to serve Him

C)In fact they Knew that Most would not –

D)But there would be those who would receive His love /His gift/

1)So the Decision was made – The plan was set in motion

E)A time would come when they would say – now is the time

Paul put it this way in Galatians 4:4

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

We often hear that Jesus is the Reason for the season

A)I get that sentiment – don't lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas –

B)It is Jesus and what he came to do

**C)But actually – We could say: You are the reason for the season – (I knew I liked this guy) talking**

D)No I am not saying Christmas is all about you –

**E)But you and I are why it happened – we were lost – rebellion**

**1)God chose to do something about –**

*Galatians 4:4 God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

Redeem = to buy back – buy us out of the slave market of sin – in order to make us his sons and daughters

I read the story of a family that was traveling to relatives for Christmas and stopped at a diner for lunch /

A)It was Christmas Eve day –

B)While they were eating their – 2 yr. Old son Eric became enamored w/ a man sitting at the counter –

1)the man looked homeless / tattered clothes

C)Ragged coat - greasy & worn /Hair unwashed - uncombed - face unshaven

1) He was Barely sober – but he was loudly making faces at little Eric &

2) Eric was Loving every minute of it !!!!! –  
Laughing

Mother Nancy tried to distract Erik - w/ food & by turning - his high chair, away from the man

A)But it was no use the man had baited her son into a friendly game of peek a poo

B)Eric & the old man were creating quite a Nuisance

C)so Eric's parents decided it was time to get back on the road.

Nancy's Husband rose to pay the Check & told her to wait for him outside - she had to walk by the man to get to the door –

A)She was hoping that she could get by w/out having to deal w/ the man

B)She prayed silently *Lord Let me out of here before he speaks to me or to Erik*

C)But As she was leaving - Erik couldn't get his eyes off of his New friend -

D)And right when she was walking past where the man was Erik's arms were outstretched reaching out to his new buddy –

It was then that Nancy's eyes met the eyes of the old man - She said - *His eyes were imploring*

A)Then the man said to her - *Would you let me hold your baby –*

B)There was no Chance to answer because Erik had propelled himself from her arms into the man's arms

1)And immediately laid his head on the mans ragged shoulder

C)The man's eyes closed & tears began to run down his cheeks –

D)And w/ his aged & ragged - dirty hands he cradled Erik & Gently stroked his back.

E)After a Moment he opened his eyes and look squarely into the eyes of Nancy - and said –

1)*you take care of this baby - she responded I will*

D)Then He pried Erik from his chest & gave him back to Nancy & said *thank you ma'am You've given me my Christmas present !!!!*

Now I love that story because I think we can all relate to how uncomfortable that would be -

A)But I want you to think about that story for a minute

B)Picture little Eric in the arms of that man who was dirty and smelly

1)And then think about what God did for us - He Gave His son - born as a little baby - to mankind

C)But we didn't cradle his son & caress His son/

Instead mankind rejected his son & killed His Son - yet God knew they would

A)It was the only way in which man would be able to be restored and have the Chance to experience His forgiveness

C)So He gave His son - willingly and freely - And thru that gift of His son –

D)God was able to offer another - gift - eternal life to anyone believe

E)The Father SENT His Only Son / & the Son willingly & Lovingly WENT

**When we look at Christmas thru the eyes of Jesus we see the Crib thru a Cross**

A)Yet most people don't like to think about the cross at Christmas.

B)Too many Christmas is about a beautiful cuddly little Baby – it is a birthday party –

1)Sing Happy birthday Jesus

C)The cross is an ugly, nasty, tasteless reminder of man's dark ages, when men acted in barbarous ways.

The cross is an offense to dignified sensibilities...

A)Most people want Christmas to be a time for tinsel, and glitter, and blinking lights,

B)Of evergreen trees, and warm fires, and eggnog,

C)Christmas is supposed to focus on peace on earth and good will toward men.

D)Why spike the Christmas punch with a reminder of violence and suffering?

Come on man don't spoil the serenity of the season with images of gore and bloodshed.

A) We all want Christmas to be the one night when everyone pretends the world is okay!

B) But the problem is the world isn't ok –

1) and it wasn't when Jesus was born on that first Christmas evening

C) Our world is broken because mankind is broken by Sin

Jesus came to fix what was broken in us – broken in our relationship with God – broken in our hearts

A) Broken in our spirits

B) And the only way that could happen was the baby that was born would have to die

Author John MacArthur puts it this way, "Here's a side to the Christmas story that isn't often told... *Those soft little hands*, fashioned by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, were made so that nails might be driven through them... *Those baby feet* - pink, and unable to walk, would one day walk up a dusty hill to be nailed to a cross... *That sweet infant's head* with sparkling eyes and eager mouth was formed so that someday men might force a crown of thorns onto it... *That tender body*, warm and soft, wrapped in swaddling clothes, would one day be ripped open by a spear."

The author concludes, "Jesus was born to die."

C) Jesus ROARED FROM THE CROSS - It is finished –

1) PRICE PAID- RANSOM DONE

This week I read a story about a preacher who was finishing his sermon preparation on Saturday afternoon.

A) His little daughter came in and she said, "Daddy, can we play?"

He said, "Honey, I'm sorry, but I'm right in the middle of preparing this sermon but I will be able to play in about an hour."

She said, "Okay, when you're finished, Daddy, I'm going to give you a great big hug." He said, "Thank you, honey."

She went to the door and then she did a U-turn, came back and gave him a great bone breaking hug.

And the father said to his daughter, "Sweetie, you said you were going to give me a hug after I finished."

She said, "Daddy, I just wanted you to know what you have to look forward to."

**I think one meaning of Christmas is that God wants us to know what we have to look forward to.**

A) One thing I love about what Paul does here in Philippians 2 – He doesn't leave us at the Cross

B) He doesn't leave us at the purpose of Jesus' first coming – but he ends by pointing to the 2nd coming

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**In this great doctrinal passage, we are given a complete history of Christ.**

A) We have learned of his pre-existence. He lived before he came at Bethlehem.

B) His incarnation when he became flesh, his humiliation at the cross,

1) His crucifixion, and now his ascension and his exaltation.

C) Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Paul looked beyond that day, however, to a future day when every knee would be made to bow before Christ.

A) This one who humbled himself and came to this earth one day will be exalted and every knee will bow.

B) Every knee above the earth, on the earth, and under the earth.

C) At the mere mention of his name, everyone above the earth will bow, including all the good angels

1)and all the redeemed who have died before Christ returns.

Everyone on earth will bow, including all human beings.

A)Everyone under the earth will bow, including all the inhabitants of hell and all the evil angels.

B)Everyone will bow the knee small and great – famous and obscure to this one whose birthday we celebrate.

C)The Bible speaks of it so clearly. At the moment of his exaltation, the cycle will be completed.

D)Bow now or Bow later – but if you wait until later it will be too late

I will close with this:

A)Historically, on a time line, Christmas occurred before Easter.

**B)But personally, in our lives God reverses the sequence, it's *the cross that comes first...***

C)When I realize I am a sinner and need a savior –  
1)when I renounce my pride and selfishness, and embrace the cross in my heart...

D)When I believe that Jesus died to end my sin, and rose to forgive me and change my life forever –  
1)my heart is transformed into a manger...

**In essence, the Son of God is born in me!**

**A)In a spiritual sense, the Christmas miracle happens again and again - not in Bethlehem, but in hearts that believe.**

"If Christ were born a thousand times in Bethlehem, and not born in my heart, I would be lost forever."  
Corrie Ten Boom

B)Today is the day of Salvation – pray