

Philippians 2:5-11
The Personification of Joy
(Majesty in the Manager Series)

One of the questions we get asked a lot at this time of the year is have you got all your Christmas Shopping done yet?

A) This is still pretty early - Dec 4th - **Anyone have their Christmas shopping done yet?**

B) Online shopping has made it a whole lot easier right ?

C) Well back in the days before online shopping there were **2 couples in Florida were headed to the mall to do some Christmas Shopping.**

But on the way there the 2 men decided to drop their wives off and head down to the harbor to go sailing

A) One of the guys owned a sail boat

B) So they dropped their wives off at the mall and said - **Buy whatever you want for Christmas - have fun - pick you up in a few hrs**

C) It was a little bit of a cloudy day that early December but there was a good wind and it seemed like a perfect day for sailing

So they head out to sea and things were great the first hour but then all of a sudden out of nowhere

A) **A huge storm erupted**

B) The Waves were Big - hanging on for dear life - when the boat was suddenly capsized -

C) The two men ended up having to be rescued by the coast guard.

1) Once on shore and safe - the one man said to his friend - that was a crazy day.

D) His friend responded - Yes it was a crazy day - definitely a close call -

1) **but it sure beats going shopping at the Mall!**

E) I am sure there are a few men here who would agree with that sentiment

Haven't you found that the older you get the harder it gets to shop for your spouse.

A) I know that is the case with us - it used to be so easy -

B) I didn't even need to ask Denise for a list - I could nail it - or maybe she just pretended like she liked it

C) Now I ask for a list - some ideas - **She responds - I don't need you to get me anything for Christmas**

D) MEN listen to me - **freebie today** - If your wife says that to you - **DON'T BELIEVE IT** - she is lying

E) Mark my words: Woe to the man who believes that lie-

She wakes up on Christmas and there is no present for her under the tree.

A) It will not be a **MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR YOU!**

B) Don't make the mistake that Harvey did

C) His wife told him she wanted something on Christmas that went from 0-100 in 4 seconds -
1) She was hoping for a new sports car

D) Harvey got her a bathroom Scale

But one of the things that makes Christmas such a remarkable time of year is this

A) It is maybe the one time of the year - our focus changes

B) 11 months out of the year most people are preoccupied with their own wants their needs -
1) what is going to make me happy -

C) How am I going to get through today - this week - accomplish my goals - agenda etc

D) Most people spend most of their days primarily focused on themselves -
1) It is part of our sin nature

E) Group Picture - How did I look.

But in December our focus shifts and we start thinking more about blessing others -

A) There is a certain joy that we experience on Christmas morning **when our son or daughter or our spouse is opening their gift**

B) And you can tell by the look on THEIR face that you nailed IT!

C) It is the perfect gift! - It fills your heart with Joy in knowing that you did something that really blessed someone you love

But here is the question I want us to ponder for a few minutes today:

A) What if we could live with that type of a mindset the other 11 months out of the year?

B) I think we would find our lives filled with a lot more Joy.

C) But is that even possible? I think Paul would say yes is it

1) because that is exactly how he instructs us to live here in Philippians chapter 2

Philippians 2 has been called the Mount Everest of Scripture -

A) And the passage we are looking at today is the peak of the MT

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ 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. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

B) The theme of the book of Philippians is Joy -

1) in fact Paul mentions the words Joy or rejoicing 14 times in these 4 short chapters.

C) Paul is writing to believers who were going through difficult times and he is seeking to show them how to have Joy in all seasons of Life

The title of the message today is "The Personification of Joy"

A) Two big ideas we are going to consider today: **Joy comes from growing in our understanding of what Jesus did for us.**

B) #2 We CAN experience Joy as we seek to emulate the mindset and example of Jesus in our relationship with others.

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

C) Start with - Joy comes from growing in our understanding of what Jesus did for us.

D) Our Christmas Theme at CV is majesty in a Manger - so let's first consider **1st His Majesty -**

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God,

A) Now when we hear the word form - we think of an outward form.

B) We think of size, and we think of shape, but that is not the word that is used.

1) If Paul wanted to talk about outward form, he would have used the Greek word schema.

C) The thing about Schema or the outward form is it is always changing.

1) Some of us it is changing every week - Our look our weight - after lunch today - RIGHT?

That is Schema - but that is not the word that Paul uses -

A) PAUL uses the word Morphe - which speaks of essence, nature, and character.

B) JESUS was the exact essence and nature and character of the father

C) The Book of Hebrews gives us insight - when it says this of Jesus

Hebrews 1:3 tells us, **"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature."** ESV

Note that Jesus is not a mere reflector of God's glory.

A) He is "the radiance," the one who radiates the glory of God!

B)Imprint - Today we would say – He was a perfect match in his finger print – or his DNA

C)So what Paul is saying using this term **being in the form of God**.

1) is that Jesus Christ possessed the unchangeable essential **nature, character and glory** of God -

D)Paul is taking us into the throne of heaven – pre-incarnation –

1)and telling us – this is how Jesus existed! – The very essence, nature, character and glory of God

E)I love the way John describes the pre-incarnate existence of Jesus in his gospel.

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.

This is Jesus – Pre-incarnate - This is Jesus in glory! - But then John says:

¹⁴ 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.

The one who made our planet – who spoke the Milky Way galaxy into existence

A)There are 100 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy

B)And Scientist say there are 100 billion other galaxies beside that

1)Jesus spoke the world into existence

C)There are 800,000 cataloged insects that crawl on the earth! – He made those –

1)Some – we have no idea why?

The one who made it all – stepped into our world took on flesh and blood

A)The morning that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and placed in the manger - **HE WAS MAJESTY IN THAT MANGER**

B)The KING had come to his planet

C)I don't know who originally said it - but - I love this saying:

A thousand times in History a Baby has become a King but only once in History has a King become a Baby

That's why he could stand before the waves in the sea and tell them to be still - And it says the winds and the sea obeyed Him.

A)He could do that because he had the authority to do that as Creator God

B)He had authority over sickness and disease – but the hands that touched the leper had dirt under his nails - **Fully Human**

C)The tongue that called for Lazarus out the grave was Fully Human

D)The tears that he shed over weeping over the city of Jerusalem were Human tears

But when Paul says he was in the form of God

A)That phrase in English is referred to as a present active participle –

B)Meaning Jesus never stopped being the essence of God

1)That is why Jesus could say: **if you have seen me you have seen the Father –**

C)Jesus as a man bore the essence, the nature and the Character of the Father.

1)He never stopped being in the Form of God

This is what theologians call this the the/an/thropic nature of Christ.

A)So theos= God, anthropos = man,

B)the/an/thropic = fully God, fully man, fully God,

So the first thing Paul's puts before us is the majesty and glory of Jesus – that he possessed -

A)Being in the form of God

B)But the 2nd thing that Paul speaks of is his emptying ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men

C) Now at first glance that can seem like an odd statement: - **He did not consider it Robbery to be equal with God.**

D) The word robbery in v.6 is a poor translation for us -

1) because when we think of robbery - to take something that doesn't belong to you.

The ESV is closer to the idea in the original language- It translates this verse this way: ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

E) Grasped = to seize upon with force

F) The NLT puts it this way: **Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.**

In other words: Jesus being in the form of God did not view his position of being equal to the Father as something he had to hold onto and at all cost.

A) To perhaps present it in a way that we could relate to -

B) When the idea was presented that Jesus would leave Heaven come to earth lowly as a mere human.

C) Jesus didn't respond - **no way - I am not doing that!**

1) I am not laying aside all of this- to go down there

D) He didn't say - And If I go down there they are going to know exactly who I am - Royalty Majesty

E) No Jesus was willing to be emptied! - notice how Paul puts it - ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man

Here is the question: How was he emptied?

A) THREE ways to think of #1 Jesus was emptied of Splendor - **He made himself of no reputation**

Think about how he came into the World - He didn't just appear - as a 30 year old man -

A) He came like every other human - BABY

B) HE SPENT 9 MONTHS IN THE WOMB - guys think about how crazy that is -

1) he stepped out of glory - into the Womb

He made himself of no reputation - He was born in a barn!

A) Not a fancy hospital - not a palace in Jerusalem - a Barn - really a cave surrounded by animals

B) He comes into the world and is not welcomed by friends or family or trained doctors and nurses -

1) Barn yard animals

C) There is no parade or elaborate celebration - now there was an angelic Choir -

1) But their audience wasn't the Higher ups in the religious or Royal community in Israel -

D) it was to a group of shepherds

Can you imagine being in that Angelic Choir - been practicing for this moment for centuries -

A) BIG REVEAL -

B) GABRIEL SAYS - OK IT IS TIME YOU GUYS ARE ON - HIT IT

C) Pull back the curtain to reveal your audience is 10 shepherds and 100 or so sheep in the field

1) Wondering who was in charge of PR - FIRED

NO REP- He would spend the first 30 yrs of his life living in obscurity -

A) Living in a little village that was considered to be the slums of Israel

B) The other side of the tracks - Hicksville -

C) Nothing of any good or substance ever came out of Nazareth. / THE REPUTATION of Naz.

D) So he goes from that place - Heaven that Paul said - human words could not describe -

1) to maybe the worst place to live in Israel

NO REPUTATION IN HIS APPEARANCE

A) Isaiah said of Jesus there was nothing about his outward appearance that we would be drawn to him.

B) When Judas was going to betray him - how will we know which one he is?

C) Judas didn't say - he will be the best looking one

1) The guy with the Tony Robbins smile -

D) He didn't say: he will be the guy with the glow over his head - **KISS**

He was emptied of all of HIS splendor that is 1st

A) 2nd He was emptied in the sense that his glory was concealed in his humanity

B) Fully God - yet fully man - His glory was concealed in his humanity

C) Mt of transfiguration - that got a glimpse of it - Jesus was seen by Peter James and John -

1) Moses and Elijah - He was glowing

D) Wow!! This is amazing

He was emptied of his splendor
His glory was concealed in his humanity

#3 He was emptied of his independent authority

A) V.7 taking the form of a bondservant - bondservant was a willing servant - 7 yrs - pledge to his master

B) Taking the form - same word - the full essence and nature of a servant of a slave

Jesus wasn't pretending - he took on the full essence of being a servant - ALL IN

A) **Vision statement: I didn't come to be served but to serve and to give my life a ransom for many - Mark 10:45**

B) He was fully into it - His mission and mindset was SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

C) Jesus in John 5 said, I do not seek my own will. I seek the will of Him who sent me.

D) He was emptied of his independent authority

1) His rights His needs - His Desire - I AM ABOUT MY FATHERS BUSINESS

So this is the Picture that Paul is painting for us - this is where Jesus was- Glory - heaven -

A) Equal with the Father - but he left all of that

B) He emptied himself of his splendor - put on humanity - made himself - no reputation

C) He emptied himself by allowing his glory to be concealed in his humanity

D) He emptied himself - of his independent authority making himself subject to his father - bondservant

So Think about the Significance of that Moment - God the Son - leaving Heaven & all of It's Glory !!! Coming here:

A) Knowing There in heaven he is worshipped Here he will be ridiculed.

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

1) Here He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World

There He is the Creator & the Sustainer of the Universe / Here He is known as the Carpenter's Son

A) There He is known as the Mighty God /

B) Here He will be known as an illegitimate child - born to a girl who was not married

C) There He dwelt in perfection / Here He will dwell in a place that was marked by imperfection

D) There He is Loved & Adored by all - Here He would be hated & Scorned by Most

E) There He is the Ruling one - Holding a Scepter

1) Here He is the Little one holding a piece of straw in his Little Baby fist

One Christmas Eve day several yrs ago a man named Bill his wife Nancy and their 2 year old son were traveling to relatives to spend Christmas

A) They stopped at a diner for some lunch

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

C) The man looked homeless - tattered clothes - Ragged coat - greasy & worn /

1) Hair unwashed - uncombed - face unshaven - hands sort of dirty looking - had not bathed in weeks

D)And He was Barely sober! –

As Bill and his family were trying to eat their lunch the man was loudly making faces at little Eric

A)And Eric was Loving every minute of it !!!!! – Laughing

B)Nancy tried to distract Eric with his food and by turning his high chair away from the man
1)But it was no use the man had baited her son into a friendly game of peek a poo

C)Eric & the old man were creating quite a Nuisance 1)so Eric's parents decided it was time to get back on the road.

Bill rose to pay the Check & told Nancy 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 - Eric couldn't get his eyes off of his New friend -

D)And right when she was walking past where the man was sitting

1)Eric stretched out his arms reaching for 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 mans 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 -

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

D)After a Moment he opened his eyes and looked squarely into the eyes of Nancy - and said - *you take care of this baby* - Nancy responded *I will*

E)Then He pried Eric from his chest & gave him back to Nancy & said *thank you maam 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)I want you to think about that story for a minute and picture your baby in the arms of that dirty smelly barely sober man

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

And we didn't cradle his son & caress His son/

A)Mankind rejected his son & killed His Son - yet God knew they would

B)it was the only way in which - man would be able to be restored and have the Chance to experience His forgiveness

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:16-17

So God in his love gave His son - willingly and freely

A)And thru that gift of His son - God was able to offer another - gift - eternal life to anyone believe

B)And Jesus willingly and freely came - knowing what would take place

C)He was ALL IN - ON THE MISSION!

Paul continued

V.8 He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

A)Note that - He Humbled himself: No one humbled him!

B)Herod did not humble him. Pilate did not humble him. The high priest did not humble him.

C)The Romans did not humble him. Jesus “humbled himself.”

D)Jesus was the most Humble man who ever walked this earth!

The question for us today is this Why? Why did JESUS do all of that.

A)This is where this study comes to a head - this is where we see the connection to this theme of Joy

B)The writer of the book of Hebrews in Ch. 12 - likened the Christian life to running in a race-
1)put it so eloquently when he said this:

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:1-2

C)Did you catch that phrase - **Who for the Joy that was set before him** - What was that Joy!

D)Father saying - Well done - Son!

E)**It is finished - Mission accomplished** - not almost or half way.

1)Paid in full - the work of Redemption was completed

THE Father would say to the Son - Well Done - notice how Paul frames it in our text

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What was the Joy set before him? -

A)The reality of knowing that his sacrifice was going to result in sinners being saved -

B)Those who were far from God being brought near

Strangers being brought into the family

C)THAT It would be worth it!

D)The Joy set before Him - was that - was you and I in the presence of God

The more that we focus on this meditate on this - the more our hearts are filled with a sense of Joy

A)Because of what Jesus did - we belong to God

B)THAT Reality is all that matters -

1)It doesn't matter what is going on in our world -

C)Doesn't matter what is going on in my life - what trials - what difficulties -

1)I can rejoice because I know - I belong to God

D)I CAN REJOICE knowing - I was on my way to Hell and now I am on my way to Heaven

E)I have something to sing about

But there is one more aspect to this we need to consider today:

A)How does this become a lifestyle of Joy? -

B)How can You and I live in this personification of Joy? V.5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

C)How do we do that? What does that look like? Back to V.1

Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind **What mind is he talking about - the mindset of Jesus!**. ³ *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **Humility** let each esteem others **Value other** better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

That is what Jesus did for us -

A)Jesus saw our need and chose that over his own comfort - his Position in heaven

B)He put our need of salvation - before his own comfort - He valued us -

Paul is saying you want to be full of Joy - Do what Jesus did - and start with the people closest to you.

A)Live with their best interest at heart

B)Acronym for JOY - Jesus / Others/ You

C)Life make sense - life becomes rich -

D)Opposite of Joy is YOJ - makes no sense

Precious church- Jesus left everything for you!

A)He endured it all for you

B)A big part of his Joy - that helped him endure was you being a part of his family

C)If you are not yet in the family -open your heart today.

For those of you who are in the family - Run your race with this reality

A)You are greatly loved by God - the Bible says that the love of God has been poured into us by the HS

B)It has been poured into us - so that it can be poured out of us to this broken hurting world

C)That my friends is the JOYFUL LIFE!