

THE HUMILIATION OF CHRIST*also "Taking the Form of a Servant"*TEXT: Philippians 2:1-11

- v. 1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if there is any persuasion of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if there is any tenderheartednesses and compassions,
- v. 2 make full my joy, in order that you may be of the same mind, having the same love, of one mind, thinking the one thing, doing
- v. 3 nothing according to self-seeking, nor according to empty glorying, but in lowliness of mind considering one another as excelling themselves;
- v. 4 not considering each one his own things but also each one the things of others.
- v. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
- v. 6 who, existing in the form of God, considered not this being equal with God something to cling to,
- v. 7 but emptied Himself, having taken the form of a servant, becoming in the likeness of men.
- v. 8 And being found fashioned as a man, He humbled Himself, having become obedient even to death, the death of the cross.
- v. 9 On which account God also exalted Him to the highest place and freely bestowed upon Him the name which is above every name,
- v.10 in order that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and of things on the earth, and of things under the earth,
- v.11 and that every tongue should confess (plainly and openly agree) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Merry Christmas to the Christian ; Happy Hanukkah to the Jew ;*INTRODUCTION: *Good luck to the Atheist.*

The agnostic Robert Ingersoll made the following statement about the person of Jesus Christ: "His name shall be called Wonderful because no man dared ever to point his finger at the character of Christ and find any fault in Him. Every time I see a rock I remember that He is the Rock of Ages. I walk out under the stars and I remember that He is the Star of the Eternal Day. When I come into one of God's temples, I remember that He is the chief cornerstone. When I walk the streets, I remember that He is the way, the truth and the life. When I see the birds in the air, I remember that He said, 'not a sparrow will fall.' The flowers tell me that He is the rose of Sharon, the lily of the valley. Wherever I go and wherever I look, in every land and in every city, the name of Jesus is wonderful."

The hymnwriter Haldor Lillenas states it so well in the fourth stanza of his hymn "My Wonderful Lord":

*The stockings
...
Fruit + Spirit
in which
was given*

"Thou art fairer to me than the fairest of earth.
 Thou omnipotent, life-giving Word
 O thou ancient of days
 Thou art worthy all praise
 My wonderful, wonderful Lord.

My wonderful Lord, my wonderful Lord
 By angels and seraphs in heaven adored
 I bow at thy shrine
 My Savior divine
 My wonderful, wonderful Lord."

God becoming Flesh ; Jesus Christ Tabernacled Among us.. . Jn. 1:14

It will be our pleasure to consider the greatest passage on the incarnation in the scripture for our Christmas meditation, Philippians 2:1-11.

*DICK K. Tenting
 Taber
 Temple
 Incarnations
 Eternal
 in us
 within
 Phil 2:1-11*

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Paul is in prison when he writes this epistle for the sake of the gospel. And evidently it is near the end of his first imprisonment that he writes this letter back to Philippi.

The imprisonment is in Rome and it is here that he returns some time later. The second imprisonment is terminated by execution.

He has an opportunity to send a letter back to his beloved Philippian church, so he writes them this personal note. This is probably the most intimate of letters that the apostle writes. And he has several reasons for writing to them:

1. To say thank you for the gift which they sent to help meet his needs.
2. He wants to tell them of his own circumstances
3. He needs to exhort them to unity and humility because of some problems in the church.
4. He wants to warn them against those who would preach to them any other gospel than the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he uses his own life as a witness as to how he himself is living.
5. He makes an appeal to Euodia and Syntyche that they become reconciled to one another.
6. He wants to admonish them to joyfulness and prayerfulness.

In chapter one he prays that their love might abound, and then he updates the progress of the gospel with himself being in prison and the many being made bold to share their faith as a result of it. He speaks briefly of the conflict between life and death and his desire to depart and to be

with Christ, which would be far better. He concludes the chapter by admonishing them to live as citizens worthy of the gospel of Christ.

As we come into chapter 2, in the first verse, it seems as though Paul is expressing something very personal from his heart, because he is revealing the four basic needs that all of us have:

- ① "If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ
- ② if there is any persuasion of love
- ③ if there is any fellowship of the spirit
- ④ if there is any tenderheartednesses and compassions"

I am sure many times the apostle Paul felt like while he was in prison that he was fighting a losing battle, that he was going it alone.

He uses four conditional phrases here to express his needs:

"If there is (and I know there is) -

- 1. "any encouragement in Christ"

How easy to criticize
How diff. to encourage

It is difficult to express the value of little words of encouragement in the midst of the struggle. Encouragement always adds to the incentive. There are many runners who ask friends to run with them the last half of the marathon, or at least the last six miles because their ministry of encouragement will get them through the difficult miles to the finish line.

- 2. "if there is any persuasion of love"

Just knowing that someone loves you brings security and a sense of well-being.

- 3. "if there is any fellowship of the spirit"

It is the free flow of communication and sharing with one another that brings us close. There is a common character, a common labor, a common interest. These all stimulate our fellowship with one another.

- 4. "if there is any tenderheartednesses and compassions"

How great to have someone who can tenderly and with constructive involvement bring healing into the weary, worn, broken life.

These four things that Paul has outlined are the four greatest needs of men and women in our day:

Paul really needed this right At this Time :
Should happen every Sunday we Are together!!

- 1. just a word of encouragement
- 2. to sense the need of love and to fill the vacuum in a life that feels unloved
- 3. to fellowship with the lonely, who feels no one cares
- 4. to be tender and full of compassion toward those with problems too great for them to bear

v. 2 make full my joy, in order that you may be of the same mind, having the same love, of one mind, thinking the one thing,

Paul is asking on the part of these Philippians, who have had some personality conflicts and difficulties among them, to make his joy full. And the way they can do that is "to be of the same mind," "having the same love," "thinking the one thing."

In verse 3 he tells them what not to do, In verse 4 he tells them what they should be doing.

v. 3 doing nothing according to self-seeking, nor according to empty glorying, but in lowliness of mind considering one another as excelling themselves;

v. 4 not considering each one his own things but also each one the things of others.

Paul then in the center of this passage (gives a command) and then illustrates this command in the person of Jesus Christ. In verse 5 we read:

v. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, !!

The apostle Paul realizes that (thinking right) makes (acting right.)

handy:
right in their
Heads right
on the field

* It was Emerson who said, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."

* May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day
By His love and power controlling all I do and say.

Proverbs 27:3 "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."

Paul in this command says to let the mind which was in Christ Jesus be the mind that is ours.

* In verses 6, 7 and 8 the apostle Paul outlines the mind of Christ and what he did in lowliness of mind to provide salvation for mankind.

II Cor. 9:15

-5-

It is these 6 statements that I want us to scrutinize carefully for our Christmas meditation.

Guy King in his work on Philippians calls these statements the "Six steps downward in the humiliation of Jesus Christ." → "Joy Way"

In verse 6 we see his attitude and in verses 7 and 8 the action taken in the six steps downward.

v. 6 who, existing in the form of God, considered not this being equal with God something to cling to,

Jesus Christ, first of all, is introduced as "existing in the form of God."

The word for "form" is "morphe." I am the Lord God + I change not... His essence, His unchangeable being, is divine. He remained in essence and in being divine through all the process of humiliation and incarnation. He himself claimed to be eternal. "Before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58 He claimed to be equal with the Father. In John 14 - "Have I been so long a time with you and you have not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father." He claimed to be Messiah to the outcast Samaritan woman who said, "I know that Messiah comes, which is called Christ. When He is come, He will tell us all things." And Jesus responds to that, "I that speak to thee am He."

1. The angels announce it: Luke 1:35 "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the power of the highest shall overshadow you, and therefore that holy offspring shall be called God's Son."
2. Matthew 3:17 God himself - "And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.'"
3. Simon Peter - Matthew 16:16 "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God."
4. His disciples - Matthew 14:33 "Then those in the boat knelt before him, saying, 'Truly, thou art the Son of God.'"
5. Mark 1:1 "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the son of God."
6. The unclean spirits - Mark 3:11 "And whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they fell before Him screaming, 'Thou art the Son of God.'"
7. A man demon-possessed - Mark 5:7 "What dealings hast thou with me, Jesus Son of God?"
8. John the Baptist - John 1:34 "And I did see it and I testify that He is the Son of God."

I. Attitude →
A.

essence
Never changed
Through incarnation

Same
Yesterday
Today
Forever

9. Nathaniel - John 1:49 "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, the king of Israel."
10. Martha - John 11:27 "Yes, Lord, I have faith that thou art the Christ, the Son of God."
11. Jesus himself - John 14:7 "Had you recognized me, you would have known my Father as well."
12. Saul - Acts 9:20 "And at once he preached Jesus in the synagogue, that he was the Son of God."
13. the Spirit - Romans 1:4 "And according to the Spirit of holiness, was openly designated as the Son of God with power."
14. Thomas - John 20:28 "My Lord and my God."
15. the centurion - Mark 15:39 "Truly this was God's Son."

" He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin." The officers who came to take Him returned empty-handed, with the statement, "Never a man spake like this man." Sermon on the Mount " But I say unto you..."

Matt. 11:28
He called with a blessed invitation to 'come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself.' He healed the sick, he raised the dead. He changed the water into wine. He took the lunch and fed a multitude. He raised Lazarus from the dead and his disciples, upon a calmed sea, raised the question, "Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

His birth was contrary to the laws of life. His death was contrary to the laws of death. He had no cornfields or fisheries but he could spread a table for 5,000 and have bread and fish to spare. He walked on no beautiful carpets or velvet rugs but he walked on the waters of the Sea of Galilee and they supported him. When he died, few men mourned, but a black crepe was hung over the sun. The men trembled, not for their sins. The earth beneath them shook under the load. All nature honored him. Sinners alone rejected him. Corruption could not get hold of his body. The soil that had been reddened with his blood could not claim his dust. Three years he preached his gospel. He wrote no book, built no church house, had no monetary backing, but after 1900 years he is the one central character in human history, the pivot around which the events of the ages revolve and the only regenerator of the human race. Was it merely the Son of Joseph and Mary who crossed the world's horizon 1900 years ago? Was it merely human blood that was spilled on Calvary's hill for the redemption of sinners? What thinking man can keep from exclaiming, "My Lord and my God!"

B. The second phrase says, "He considered not this being equal with God something to cling to."

Lowliness of Mind

Back in verse 3 the apostle Paul, in challenging the Philippians to get their act together, tells them, "in lowliness of mind, considering one another as excelling themselves." Perhaps it is this lowliness of mind that is being expressed here in this phrase, speaking of the attitude of Christ, who considered not this being equal with God something to cling to.

*** What is the attitude of Jesus Christ as he prepares to be involved in this mission of self-humiliation? What is the attitude behind the action that is about to be taken in these next phrases?

*Could have said "No" Not Me *** Send An Angel ****

The Son of God did not stand on his rights but laid them aside to meet a need. The word "cling to" has the idea of a treasure to be clutched and retained at any cost.

II Corinthians 8:9 "For we know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

He laid aside all these things for us and so we see him constantly borrowing 1) a place for his birth, 2) a house to sleep in, 3) a boat to preach from, 4) an animal to ride on, 5) a room to eat his last supper in, and finally, 6) a tomb to be buried in.

We now come to the 6 steps downward in the incarnation and humiliation of Jesus Christ. The next phrase in our text says,

I. STEP #1 - "but emptied himself"

*** John 1:14 "And the word became flesh and tabernacled among us, and we beheld his glory, a glory as of an only born from a father full of grace and truth"

What does it mean, "he emptied himself"?

First, let it be said that he did not empty himself of his form. His essence is in no way changed through his humiliation. His attributes, his character and his deity are in no way affected by his becoming flesh.

This is a strong and graphic expression of the completeness of his self-renunciation. It includes all the details of humiliation which follow and is defined by these. The heavenly Christ did not selfishly exploit his divine form and mode of being but by his own decision emptied himself of it, or laid it by, taking the form of a servant by becoming man.

Mark 10:45 "He came not to be ministered unto but to minister And to Give His life a ransom for many."

The process of becoming a servant you've got to let go of a lot of things.

He divested himself not of his divine nature, for this was impossible, but of the glories, the prerogatives of deity; this he did by taking upon him the form of a servant.

Phil. 3:12, 18

* Galatians 4:4 "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were under the law."

* Colossians 1:19 "For God was pleased to have all his fulness dwell in Him."

The Logos ceases not for a single moment, in spite of his voluntary humiliation, to be that which he was in his eternal nature and essence. When the pre-existent and eternal Logos took on humanity, he gave up the visibility of his glory. Men could not have looked upon unveiled deity. The independent exercise of the divine attributes - He did not use them apart from the pleasure of the Father.

* John 5:19 "Jesus gave them this answer, 'I tell you the truth. The Son can do nothing by himself. He can do only what he sees his Father doing because whatever the Father does, the Son also does.'"

It was the desire of Satan in the temptation of Christ to get him to act independent of the Father in turning the stones into bread.

Lightfoot points out, "Jesus Christ, in emptying himself, stripped himself of the insignia of his majesty."

If an officer of the armed forces would walk into a common barracks, the normal reaction would be to salute and stay at attention until he would say, "At ease." The men are made conscious of the difference in rank. If he enters the barracks without the emblems of rank, there is quite a different atmosphere. But even without the emblems, he still is an officer. Jesus Christ willingly stripped himself of the emblems of his rank in the act of taking the form of a servant, and his disciples received him as a man.

With Emily Elliott we say,

"Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown when thou camest to earth for me,
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room, for thy holy nativity.
Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming thy royal decree,
But of lowly birth didst thou come to earth, and in greatest humility."

"Mary had a little lamb its fleece was white as snow."

"Behold the Lamb of God who is taking away the sins of the world." "Spotless Lamb of God was He Full Atonement can it be. Hallelujah! What a Saviour!!"

Milton expressed it this way, "That glorious form, that light insufferable-
he laid aside. And here with us to be; forsook the courts of everlasting
day and choose with us a darksome house of mortal clay." At the moment
when he divesting himself of the apparel of the son, he took the apron
of a servant."

* Hebrews 2:9 "But we Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels,
for the suffering of death; crowned with glory and honor, that he
by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

* Hebrews 2:17 "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like
unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high
priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the
sins of the people."

** { Come now and view that manger, the Lord of glory see.
A house-less, home-less stranger in this poor world for thee.
There see the God-head glory shine through that human veil,
And willing hear the story of love that's come to heal.

** { He has stepped down from making the solar systems to helping in a car-
penter's shop. He lays aside the scepter to take the towel to wash the
disciples' feet. Who can comprehend God becoming man, God leaving the
atmosphere of heaven for the air of a stall, a world of angels for the
presence of animals.

II. STEP #2 - "having taken the form of a servant"

Paul is pleading with the Philippian to live in unity and in harmony,
to lay aside their disharmonies and their discords, to shed their personal
ambitions and their pride and their desire for prominence and prestige
and to have in their hearts that (humble, selfless desire to serve) which
was the very essence of the life of Christ.

* Christ, who is our model or example, in emptying himself of the rights and
prerogatives of deity, takes the form of a slave.

* Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to
serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

* John 13:4,5 "So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing,
and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water
into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them
with the towel that was wrapped around him."

Card on the opposite page!!

Message "Two Keys to Greatness"

MARK 10:35-45

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* Hebrews 10:5-7 "Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said, Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me. With burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, Here I am. It is written about me in the scroll. I have come to do your will, O God."

* Isaiah 52:13-53:12 -

The Servant
OF Jehovah

"See, my servant will act wisely. He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him, his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man, and his form marred beyond human likeness. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering; like one from whom men hide their faces. He was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet, we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

III

STEP #3 - The third step down is seen in the next phrase -

"becoming in the likeness of men"

* John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us."

He became like us at Bethlehem so that we can become like Him when he comes again.

* I John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

A story is told of a devout member of the Hindu sect who was confronted with the claims of Christ. To him all life was sacred, a cow, an insect, a cobra. Yet he could not grasp the Christian concept that God actually visited this planet in the flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. One day, as he walked through the fields, wrestling in his mind with his concept of God, he observed also an ant hill with thousands of ants in evidence. He observed that the ant hill was in the path of a farmer plowing the fields. Grippd with a concern that you and I would feel for hundreds of people trapped in a burning building, he wanted to warn them of their impending destruction. But how? He could shout to them but they would not hear. He could write in the sand but they would not be able to read. How then could he communicate with them? Then the realization came. If only he were an ant, he could warn them before it was too late. Now he understood the Christian concept--God became a man--Jesus Christ, in order to communicate his love and forgiveness to us.

So we stand in utter amazement at such a mystery as this and marvel at the selfless love that would act on our behalf." He came from the bosom of the Father to the bosom of a woman. He put on humanity that we might put on divinity. He became son of man that we might become sons of God. He was born in a supernatural way, lived in poverty, reared in obscurity. Only once crossed the boundary of the land in childhood. He had no wealth nor influence and no college education, and yet the profoundest wisdom of men has never equalled his last discourses in John 13-17 and the Sermon on the Mount. Never a man spake like this man. His relatives were inconspicuous and un-influential. In infancy he startled a king; in boyhood he puzzled the doctors; even at 12 years of age, proving he was far in advance of the theologians, for he was taught of God. In manhood he ruled the elements so that he could defy the laws of gravitation by walking on the water and quiet the raging sea. He healed the multitudes without medicine, made no charge for his services, never wrote a book, yet not all the libraries of the country could hold the books that have been written about him. He never wrote a song, yet he has furnished the theme of more songs than all the songwriters combined. He never founded a college yet all the schools together cannot boast of as many students as he has. He never marshalled an army, drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; yet no leader ever made more volunteers, who have, under his orders, made rebels stack arms or surrender without a shot being fired. Great men have come and gone, yet he lives on. Herod could not kill him. Satan could not seduce him. Death could not destroy him. The grave could not hold him and even demons obeyed him. He fed the hungry multitudes with a boy's little lunch; broke up funerals and gave back life to those that were dead. He laid aside his purple robe for a peasant's gown. He was rich; yet, for our sake's he became poor. As to how poor, ask Mary, ask the wise men. He slept in another's manger. He cruised the lake in another's boat. He rode on a borrowed beast. He was buried in a rich man's tomb. He conquered death, rose on the third day, as he said he would; descended into heaven, is now at the right hand of the throne of God and will one day come in clouds of heaven with power and great glory for his own born again, blood-bought ones to be forever with him according to the promise; after which he will judge the world in righteousness, when every knee shall bow to him and every tongue shall confess him as Lord. His friends gladly but his enemies seeking for a place to hide from his face. The ever perfect one, he is the chief among ten thousand and the only one who can satisfy the soul and give everylastin^g life to those who have it not. He is altogether lovely and he is my Savior.

He was made in the likeness of men and he allowed the devil to tempt him. His body experience hunger, thirst, weariness. He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.

"and being found fashioned as a man" -

IV • STEP #4 - "he humbled himself"

John 3:30 "He must increase but I must decrease"

He humbled himself in the sense that he returned to the home of Mary and Joseph and remained in subjection to them during the early years of his life. He humbled himself to be a carpenter. He humbled himself to be betrayed for the price of a bondservant. And he humbled himself to a slave-like death.

He humbled himself because as a child he went home. He humbled himself through the 30 years of silence in that he did not knock on the door of the high priest or seek out eminent rabbis to announce his public ministry. He humbled himself in that his companions were fishermen, lowly men. Throughout his life he manifests the attitude of a servant.

I Peter 5:5,6 "Young men, in the same way, be submissive to those who are older. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may lift you up in due time."

This humbling was beautifully illustrated in the December 19 reading of the Daily Bread:

"And few days after a Christian bought a farm his neighbor who was not a believer asked him, 'Are you the new owner?' 'Yes,' was the reply. Then said the non-Christian, 'You have bought yourself a lawsuit also.' 'What do you mean?' 'Well, it's this way: Your fence line is ten feet too far over on my side and I'm taking the matter to court to prove it.' 'Oh, don't do that,' said the Christian. 'If the fence is in the wrong place, we'll move it to where you claim it should be.' The unbeliever was completely disarmed. 'Do you really mean that?' he said in surprise. 'Of course, I do. The Lord tells me to live peaceably with all men. And I intend to follow his orders.' The aggressive attitude of the neighbor changed. For a moment he looked at the smiling believer. Then he put out his hand and said, 'I'm sorry. Let's just leave the fence where it is.'"

At the end of the Civil War, Sherman was organizing the great parade that would march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington. One of the generals O. O. Howard was scheduled to ride at the head of his division. On the morning of the parade, Sherman came to Howard and said, "I would like to ask a favor of you, General," Howard said. "Yours to command, sir," Sherman said. "You know so-and-so who was another general who used to command your troops? He wants to ride at the head of his old division. Howard, would you step down and let General So-and-So take your place?" Howard swallowed hard. He had fought with these men. He had lost an arm in the service. By rights

Poverty
Misunder-
standing

Rejection

In A Seminary
Student do I
Get A Discount

he had earned the place of honor. Nevertheless, he turned to Sherman and said, "Yes, sir." Sherman looked at him in amazement and admiration. "Howard," he replied, "I expected you would do it. Now you may ride with me at the head of the army."

* Luke 14:11 "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased. And he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

1. The willingness of Christ to leave his native sphere - "I'll go where you want me to go."
2. The willingness to become whatever his Father desired. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, made in the likeness of men. "I'll be what you want me to be."
3. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. "I'll do what you want me to do."

STEP #5 - The fifth step downward - "having become obedient, even to death"

He humbled himself by becoming obedient. It is always safe laying yourself at the feet of Jesus and making your will active only when you know what God's will for you to do. Never did any servant with more unswerving loyalty, unwavering devotion and unquestioning obedience than did this one. The highest place that heaven affords is his, is his by right. Yet on earth it was a lowly station that he sought--an insignificant village, a humble cottage, a lowly mother, a poor trade. He was born to a borrowed cradle. He was laid in a borrowed tomb. And during his ministry the Son of man had not where to lay his head. He became obedient unto death.

serve

On the night before he died, he prayed, "Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." As he hung there upon the cross, suspended between heaven and earth, he asked forgiveness for those who were taking his life, and then in his final word of prayer, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

It could well be said of Jesus, 'He died as he had lived, saving others.' "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joys that I have prepared for thee."

STEP #6 - The sixth step downward - "the death of the cross"

From the manger to the cross he trod a path of humiliation which culminated in the misery and suffering and reproach of a shameful death on a tree. Christ, who with a view of saving others, renounced himself.

V. My hour has not yet come Father, it may be possible

It is finished Submission as a servant Obedience to the Father's will

O Dearly, dearly has he loved and we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood and try his works to do.

“ Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. ”

He chose to step down from the glory which he had with the Father before the world was. And go all the way to the cross. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us. “Still, O soul, the sign and wonder of all ages see,
Christ thy God, the king of glory, on the cross for thee. ”

Jesus Christ came all the way down from the throne to the lowest death.

{ Was it the nails O Savior that bound thee to the tree.
Nay, twas thine everlasting love, thy love for me, for me.
To wonders I confess, the wonders of his glorious love
And my own worthlessness

I Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bear our sins in his own body on a tree, that we being dead to sin should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes you were healed."

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquities of us all."

{ Upon a life I did not live
Upon a death I could not die
Another's life, another's death,
I stake my whole eternity.

{ When I survey the wonderous cross on which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

{ Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were present far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Thomas Hastings said it so well, "No mortal can with him compare among the sons of men. Fairer is he than all the fair who fill the heavenly train."

CONCLUSION:

The apostle has challenged us to let this mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus. This lowliness of mind which is seen in the Christ,

Jesus Christ, according to John 12:32, said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself." He waits to draw men, women, children, clean, unclean, strong, and weak, thieves and honest men, rulers and commoners, drawing them from every generation in his saving power, giving them new life, making them new creations in Jesus Christ. And by his living power within them to allow their lives as servants to reflect the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. With Pilate each of us must face the question, "What shall I do with Jesus? I hear his pleading voice. He asks that he may enter and make my heart rejoice. The hand that's gently knocking bore cruel wounds for me. And on his brow so holy the thorn marks yet I see. What shall I do with Jesus? The king upon his throne. He claims my full allegiance, redeemed me for his own. O deeply solemn question. Lord, help me now decide and take thee for my savior, my master, friend and guide."

✎ II Corinthians 9:15 "But thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!"

Ah, such a gift gives wonder beyond description, a lack of words.

Would You come with me to Calvary . . .

destination of his humiliation . . .

who existed in the form of God, considered not being equal with God something to cling to, but:

- STEP 1 - He emptied himself
- STEP 2 - having taken the form of a servant
- STEP 3 - becoming in the likeness of men
and being found fashioned as a man,
- STEP 4 - he humbled himself
- STEP 5 - having become obedient even to death
- STEP 6 - the death of the cross

Someone has said, "We see the selfless mind which thinks nothing of itself and only of others. We see the sacrificial mind that will go to the utmost lengths for the welfare of others. Third, we see the serving mind, which is happily content to render any service that will be of help."

What are the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: There is an emptying process in becoming a servant.

Would you lay aside your rights, your prerogatives, your plans and allow Jesus Christ to become lord?

John 3:30 "He Christ must continue to be increasing and I must be decreasing."

Isaiah 55: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Mary 1992

LESSON #2: Humility and obedience are top priority items for his servants.

LESSON #3: Self denial leads to service of others.

The results of Christ's humiliation are seen in the remaining verses of our text: "On which account God also exalted Him to the highest place and freely bestowed upon Him the name which is above every name, in order that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and of things on the earth, and of things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess (plainly and openly agree) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.