

Grow in Christ's Humanity and Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

We saw last week how seeing the Son, we see the Father who sent Him; and having the Son means having the Father also.

This is so because Jesus is fully God.

But when we see Jesus, we also see him as one of us. That God would become man is the most amazing miracle. But right next to it is that a man now sits at the right hand of God!

Warfield put it so well: "We cannot afford to lose either the God in the man or the man in the God; our hearts cry out for the complete God-man whom the Scriptures offer us."

"This is eternal life" says our Savior. "to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent!"

Jesus is the Mediator, and he could not be our Mediator if He did not humble himself and die on the cross.

That is our topic today. Our King comes riding to us, meek and humble. He says to us, 'Learn of me, for I am lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls'.

Christ is the only Mediator between God and man; in fact, He is the two parties themselves, whom he represents. He brings the two to be One!

Our first point then is to see in his humble humanity all we need as his followers.

Behold God becoming man in his incarnation.

Jesus Christ is the Wonder of wonders!

Without words, God says He spared nothing for your salvation!

When Sarah doubted God could give her a baby, the Lord responded by asking, 'is anything too hard, or too difficult for the Lord?' That word 'difficult' is 'wonderful'! God says in Jesus that nothing is too wonderful in His salvation!

The grace and knowledge of Jesus' incarnation is that God is the God of the impossible, of the stupendous, of that which is beyond man!

In his incarnation, His name is Wonderful.

In his lowly birth, He is your friend.

Jesus is joined with our race – bone of our bones, flesh of our flesh.

He stooped to us – not to the highest or middle, but to the lowest, to the poorest.

See him leaving the glory of heaven to reach you – to be a friend who is closer to you than a brother! You have a friend in Jesus!

He is wonderful, he is your friend – God your friend!

He is your example. He has shown the world how to live! His obedience to the law, His faith in the Father, His humility, His love for others in service and sacrifice.

Who can debate that Jesus is not the best of our human race?

Ralph Waldo Emerson said 'the name of Jesus is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world.'

He is wonderful; he is your friend; he is your example whom you are to set before you daily.

Then look at his miracles! What do they say without words to you?

They tell you that this man Jesus, who went about doing good, turned none away empty, but healed all kinds of disease, is the one who makes you whole!

Then take his sufferings, won't you? What love is there! Bearing with your sins, your rejections of him!

The Larger Catechism asks:

WLC 48 How did Christ humble himself in his life?

A. Christ humbled himself in his life, by subjecting himself to the law, which he perfectly fulfilled, and by conflicting with the indignities of the world, temptations of Satan, and infirmities in his flesh...

The next question goes on:

Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors...

He was spit upon by men not worth spitting upon!

Then his death – His cross is a sacrifice, an atonement for sin, bearing the wrath of God; what wrath? For the sins of the world.

‘Man asks God how much do you love me, and God responds by His Son – this much!’

Here is the free offer to all sinners of every nation! Here is the fountain of life opened for all the world.

But for the believer, how much more! My sins were paid there! My sins put him on that cross more than the Jews and Romans! He went willingly, lovingly, perfectly.

I see there my Savior, shedding his blood for unworthy me.

The knowledge of your gracious Lord includes your pardon and title to heaven! Nothing can be added or subtracted to Him!

So here my friends, find in his humble human history your all in all! The great captain of your salvation! The one who will never let you go.

This brings us to our second point then

The death of Jesus Christ richly saves you from – you!

Look at all the ways in which his death is described in the Bible! It is as though the Holy Spirit strains to get across to you how richly Jesus has paid your sins, and you are free!

Christ's death is a sacrifice, the fulfillment of the Old Testament types. His blood is the blood of the new covenant. It is a sacrifice, an offering, a ransom and therefore releases you from prison and death. He is a payment, an expiation, an atonement, and a curse taken over from us. He obtained all the benefits of salvation, such as the forgiveness of sins, the removal of our sins, the cleansing from a bad conscience, justification, righteousness, sonship, and access to God. ...Free from the law's curse, we stand victorious in Christ over Satan, the world, death, the fear of death, and judgment. As we await our

heavenly inheritance, we enjoy the beginning of eternal life until it manifests itself fully in glory, in a new heaven and new earth!

In Philippians, Jesus is exalted as high as can be because he stooped as low as can be! His purchase of his blood has infinite value! And you are lifted up with Him, as your King, your Priest, your Lord.

What then is your response?

He is humbled for a season, but no longer! The One whom Isaiah 53 says had no form or handsomeness that we might see his appearance and be attracted to him – how do you greet and treat him?

Do you judge him by the eye of the world, the flesh, by appearances and shallow calculations!

Jesus in his humility, because it is attached to his exaltation, should be your richest wealth in Him!

When you hear the praises start, the Hosanna's shouted, the children singing, and the palm branches waving, which side do you take?

This is our King? Or, 'Silence these lambs!?'

Keep in your hearts that He comes, not as one who is humble, but one who is humbled, who humbled himself. He comes from a place of greatness, of heights, of glory.

He is a humbled King, a poor rich Lord. He who stoops to earth so low comes from heaven, and brings immeasurable blessings, full of grace and truth.

And what does He say? Take my yoke and learn of Me for I am meek and humble!

That is remarkable, is it not? A yoke sounds heavy, hard, harsh even. But not His! His burden is light, and his yoke brings rest to your souls! His yoke carries you, because He is yoked with you, never to be divided from you! “What can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus?”

See him then coming to you meek and lowly, stooping to where you are! He is the seeking God! He comes to you in such a kind way! He does not despise or reprove you for being so needy. Does not break the bruised reed or quench the smoking wick. He is the Advocate of heaven who sunk to the depths of the earth to reach YOU!

So honor him this season! Boast in His grasp on you, not yours on him! Let his grace, his truth, drive you to your knees to say, He is My Lord!

You see that the more you look at the glory of God in His face, the more are you changed, the more are you sanctified, the more are you humbled, because the more are you grateful for Him!

This is the secret of the Christian life – making more and more room for Jesus as he rides deeper and deeper into our hearts and lives.

There was a famous teacher in Greece named Demosthenes. No one taught his students so well to speak as he. They were made to put pebbles in their mouths so as to learn how to talk clearly.

He famously said, the first rule of oratory was enunciate, the second rule, enunciate, the third rule – enunciate!

When one of his most famous students many centuries later was asked what the first rules of being a Christian was, he borrowed from his teacher.

Augustine said the first rule of Christianity is Humility, the second rule is humility, and the third is humility.

Let us humbly rejoice and embrace this humble and glorious king, and grow up in him in all things. Amen.