

**Title:** Beholding the Glory of the Incarnate Son

**Passage:** Philippians 2:5-11

## I. INTRODUCTION

In all of human history, never has a life been lived, or a mission accomplished, as was done in Jesus. Consider these features of the life, mission, and obedience of Jesus.

- There never has been a **higher place** from which one has stooped.
- There never has been a **lower position** from to which one has aspired.
- There never has been a **costlier obedience** from which one has served.

## II. STOOPING LOW

Philippians 2:5

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

- Jesus provided an example for us to live our own lives

### A. Highest Height

Philippians 2:6

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Two ways show the divinity of Jesus:

#### 1. Existed in the “form” (*morphe*) of God - essential nature

- “form” = Greek word = inner substance, reality, nature of something
  - contrast: not outward features
  - Translation: form of God = in very nature of God
- Jesus fully possess the same divine nature as the other Persons of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit)

#### 2. Equality with God - nothing is equal to God but GOD

- For Jesus to be equal to God, Jesus must be God.

Isaiah 45:5

I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God;

- God made clear there is none like Him.

Hebrews 1:3

*He is the radiance of the glory of God* and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

- Jesus is equal to God the Father

## B. Lowest Depth

### Philippians 2:7

but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

#### 1. He “emptied” or “poured out” Himself

- Jesus did not give up His deity but instead gave up His privileges of His deity in order to “empty”
- “emptied” = Greek word = to pour out or to empty
- Heresy Note: He did not pour something *out of* Himself (pouring out attributes of His deity where He stopped being God to be a man)
  - Jesus was fully God and fully man to be our Savior.
    - Fully man: so He can take up our sin and be a proper substitute for us
    - Fully God: so Jesus’ sacrifice to be of infinite value. Satisfied God’s wrath for all who believe in Him.

#### 2. How? By *taking* he form (very nature) of a servant - an emptying by adding; subtraction by addition.

- Illustration: Dirty car (someone test drives a new car into wet muddy areas)
  - because of covering of the mud on a car, the car’s beauty cannot be expressed
  - Likewise, when Jesus took on humanity, many of His attributes were not fully expressed through His humanity. Otherwise, Jesus would not have lived an authentic human life (Jesus traveled yet God is omnipresent; Jesus got tired yet God is eternal power).
  - Jesus then was able to be our perfect Savior to pay the penalty that we humans deserved to pay.

## C. Costliest Obedience

### Philippians 2:8

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- Jesus endured and paid the ultimate sacrifice of His life on the cross.

## III. EXALTED HIGH

### A. Exaltation's Basis

#### Philippians 2:9a

Therefore God has highly exalted him...

- “Therefore” = the humble obedience life of Christ = reason why God the Father highly exalted Jesus

### James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

- humility = great value and viewed by God.

*Application:*

- Do you want to receive God's reward?
- The basis of rewards that God the Father will surely give to you is based upon your obedience and faithfulness here on earth
  - Even most difficult situations that require sacrifice.
  - If it is the will of the Father, we do so with joy.

### **B. Exaltation's Expression**

Name above every name given to Him. As God? No! But, as a man, the Messiah, the second Adam, the seed of Abraham, the son of David, he won the right to rule the nations!

### Philippians 2:9

...and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

- Refers to Jesus' Messianic identity
  - Note: cannot refer to the divine nature of Christ, which He had already.
- Only after Jesus obedient life and death on the cross, as a man, Jesus is given the highest name possible over all the earth.

Jesus, as the Messiah, is exalted above all:

### Psalms 2:7-9

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;

today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

- God the Father granted to the Son the authority over the nations.
  - How? Reference to as Son of David, Messiah

### Matthew 4:8-10

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then

Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God

and him only shall you serve."

- Satan's temptation of Jesus: take the easy route. You can have the nations without any sacrifice.
- Jesus did not contest the offer but the *terms*. Satan had those nations. Jesus came to "buy back" the nations for Himself.

### Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- “has been given to me” = Jesus said this as the resurrected Christ. (Note: He did not say “has always been mine”)

#### Ephesians 1:20-22

that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

- Christ, in His exalted position, is given authority over all things.

#### Hebrews 1:1-2

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

#### Revelation 2:17

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.

### **C. Exaltation’s Response**

#### Philippians 2:10-11

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Day of judgment will occur where all will bow their knee to Jesus.
- At this moment, all will recognize and acknowledge Jesus as Lord. Those in heaven and hell.
- Will you bow your knee now or when it will be too late (at the Day of Judgement)?

References to Old Testament passage, displaying the deity of the Son as the God-man in worship given Him by all persons from all time.

#### Isaiah 45:21-25

Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’

“Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. In the Lord all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory.”

- This passage references Christ where all will bow and confess His deity.
- This is the risen and exalted Jesus!

#### Philippians 2:11

every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Whose will/plan/work did the Son fulfill? God the Father’s.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

#### **Rejoice!**

- the lowest humiliation and costliest obedience has won the greatest victory!
- Jesus reigns now. He has conquered Satan, death, and sin.
- Anyone in Christ is in the life of the One who is Victor!
- We cannot be denied the fullness of the victory that Christ has won for all of eternity

#### **Repent**

- Bow now in gratitude and faith. He is the only Savior.

#### John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- Or bow then in fear of certain judgment.

#### Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

#### **Resolve**

- Follow Christ as Lord, for Lord He is!
- Yield to, trust, obey, and follow Him!
- Pray: You are my Lord as you are Lord of all.

#### Matthew 6:9-10

Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*