MISSIO DEI FELLOWSHIP

A Submitted Life, The Glory of The Son

Acts 26:1-14

SERMON FOCUS

Pressing Deeper into Verse 14

"It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

01 **Christ Confronts Paul**
"Why are you persecuting Me?" — every evil that touches a believer is felt by the Lord Himself.

02 **The Strange Statement**
Jesus' words about the goads reveal a key element of the Christian life born out of faith.

03 **A Submitted Life**
In this message we consider the ultimate submitted life: Jesus Christ. Christ.

RECAP

From Last Time

Honest Testimony
Paul was straightforward about his life before Christ — raised in Jerusalem, Jerusalem, trained as a Pharisee, and a persecutor of the church.

Providence of God
He learned he had been set apart for salvation before he was born. All the events of his life led to the Damascus road confrontation.

Kicking Against the Goads
The Lord had arranged many “goads” that pricked and prodded Paul toward submission. The pain of resistance is not the fault of the goad.

INTRODUCTION

To Understand a Submitted Life, Look to Jesus

Ephesians 5:21

"...and being subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

Philippians 2:3–5 sets the pattern

- Selfish ambition and empty conceit destroy unity
- Regarding one another as more important promotes unity
- The key heart attitude: humility of mind
- We are to “think” like Jesus (v. 5)

PHILIPPIANS 2

Humility of Mind

An ongoing thinking — a constant contemplation of what is good and proper as a servant of the Most High God.

When the Goads Come

We fight and stiffen our neck.

We respond that the burden is too great.

God says: “Go look to Jesus.”

The Standard

Who sets the standard for humility?

Jesus existed eternally as God, equal to God — yet emptied Himself to take on flesh.

THE GLORY OF THE SON

What Is Meant by “Preincarnate”?

When we say Jesus is God “incarnate,” it refers to the eternal Son of God entering human history and becoming human.

Embodied in Flesh

More than taking on human flesh — taking on a human nature.

Fully God & Fully Man

One Person with two complete natures that do not co-mingle.

John 1:14

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us… full of grace and truth.”

PHILIPPIANS 2 & JOHN 17

He Emptied Himself

Not that He stopped being God or gave up any part of being God.

v. 1 "Glorify Your Son… so that the Son may glorify You." Even here Jesus expresses desire from deep humility. The Cross is the purpose of His humiliation.

v. 4 "I glorified You on the earth, having finished the work which You have given Me to do." Every action, trip, conversation, miracle — all for the Father's glory.

v. 5 His great desire: to take back up the glory He had with the Father before creation.

Eternal Sonship

Jesus did not become the Son in His incarnation.

What Eternal Sonship Is NOT

- Not that the Son was created or had a beginning (As taught by Jehovah's Jehovah's Witnesses and Oneness Pentecostalism).
- Not that the Son only became "Son" at His birth or resurrection.
- Not that the Son is somehow inferior in power or essence.

God eternally exists as one God in three co-eternal, co-equal Persons of one undivided essence or nature.

SCRIPTURE

Key Passages on the Eternal Son

John 8:58

"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

The Jews understood the claim — they picked up stones. Jesus claims the divine name and eternal existence.

John 1:1 & 14

"In the beginning was the Word… and the Word was God… The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Before time, the Word already was — face-to-face with God.

The Glory of the Preincarnate Son

Creator

In Him all things were created — seen or unseen. The Word brought light into existence.

Sustainer

He holds all things together. Every atom, molecule, ocean, and planet is held by the Son.

Revealer

Present giving the Word to the prophets — often a physical visit, not merely a verbal message.

Judge & Guardian

The firstborn of Egypt; the pillar of pillar of cloud and fire; the angel angel who struck 185,000 Assyrians in a night.

CONCLUSION

This Is Who Our Example Is

1. Jesus confronted Paul: it is a hard life for those who resist their Creator.

2. He was not calling Paul merely to acknowledge Jesus in a safe way — but to face the fact that he was in rebellion to his Lord.

3. A life of faith is not negotiating with Jesus about what we should do.

4. Rather, a life of faith is one where we submit ourselves to Him and to what and to what He commands.

LOOK TO JESUS

Whenever the path feels too much…

This Jesus, who although He existed in the form of God did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men.

This Jesus, who being reviled, was not reviling in return; while suffering, He was uttering no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.

Lord Willing, Next Sunday: How Jesus faithfully submitted submitted Himself to the will and purposes of His Father. Father.

BENEDICTION

May our God cause you to rejoice in the Lord,
to be made complete in all aspects,
and to be comforted by the Spirit.

May He move in and among us
to be like-minded in the Word
and to live in peace with one another.

Amen