

Jesus is Servant / "Presence" II – Advent 2016

We are worshippers by nature – who we are & what we do screams - worshipper. "This is weird but true: in the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. – David Foster Wallace

worship – "is what we value as greater than us, that captures our affection, attention, and assets, because we believe it is the key to our happiness." What captures our three "A's" to – or our heart, time, money – is what we worship. This time of the year – we get a glimpse into what we worship. Something big we can join with (teams) Millions live and die on the their teams performance and thousands pay thousands to watch them play. People (kids, family)- We will purposefully go into anxiety and chokehold producing debt because we believe the gifts we get will make them happy. Ideals (approval or control)- When the pressure of the holidays spins out of control because relationships or plans go crazy, we feel out of control. Somewhere in there you will see this god of control you worship. When you lose control – You, lose it!

"Worship, at its core, is not just something we do. Rather, worship is who we are. What we worship defines us." Paul David Tripp What defines you? It is who or what you worship.

It is why – many of you are here today. You worship Jesus and you really want to worship Him during this season because you believe he the key to real happiness – joy. Yet – it is so easy to give ourselves to something else we believe will make us happy – give us joy. And because of this you struggle, we struggle giving ourselves fully to Him. Others – you are not totally sure why you are here but you really want to know if Jesus is greater than you. Is Jesus greater than you and I?

We worship so many things that constantly reveal themselves as **LESS than us**. What we thought was **GREAT** – and we gave our affections and attention to proved small and not worthy of worship –and they choke us. These aren't always evil things either. Ideals, causes, people – are great gifts from God but they are lousy things to worship. They aren't God. So how do we turn our worship to Jesus and find if He **GREAT**ER than us – if he truly is God who will give us joy! Sounds crazy – but **we see Jesus as amazingly great – when we see God as a stunning Servant.**

As we see the profound beauty of Servant Jesus - we will begin to worship Him above all things.

01. How did Jesus serve us?

02. Why did Jesus serve us? Goal: We will see the stunning beauty of Jesus and worship – today, tomorrow...

01. How did Jesus serve us?

The idea of Jesus, God serving us – when you think about it is absurd.. Lou Brock – holding the lady's bag and baby – to get Gibson's signature. Stunning and exalting to see her hero serve her. May it stun and move us to exalt J.

• Jesus laid aside his Devine nature – His glory! **How?**

Jesus was and is God – and he did not stop being God when he came to this earth – but he did lay aside or didn't grasp onto - the overwhelming greatness of His nature- glory as God to serve us.

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

We often feel wronged or sinned against when we aren't looked at as equal. Its in our D of Indep.!

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," Declaration of Independence

Truth - equality amongst humans is hard to figure – nature yes, abilities no.

God The Father, Son, and Spirit – all equal in nature and abilities – but Jesus laid his down to serve.

1) Jesus laid aside His **DEVINE ABILITIES** (power)

7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, ...

The All-Powerful God laid aside His glorious ABILITIES as God – and chose to walk this earth primarily a Servant – and not The All-Powerful God He was and is. He still did miraculous and powerful things – but only as they allowed Him to serve Father God and those He encountered on this earth. *Like Superman laying aside his ability to fly, like Thor laying down his hammer, like Flash laying aside his speed – in order to serve when they serve w powers.* Almighty God would limit his power to serve us – so, the powerful creator got pimples, hungry, sleepy, he walked, and when his organs and heart got destroyed – he died! **Amazing!**

2) Jesus laid aside His **DEVINE APPEARANCE**

7 ... being born in the likeness of men.

In putting Himself in the body of a man – He laid aside His glorious divine appearance. The glory of His appearance brings all to their knees or to their death. Men and women and boys and girls stood face to face with Jesus, with holy Majestic, Almighty, All—Powerful GOD – and did not recognize him. Why? He willingly laid aside the glory of His appearance and clothed it or cloaked it if you will in human skin.

B Pitt, S Connery, Lm Hemsworth – going homeless / M Monroe, So Loren, S Johansen, Em Stone – wear veils
It took Jesus pulling the veil back on His glory a tiny bit for people to see Him as God. He allowed a few to see His glory. Once - on a mountain, on the water, and as he left this earth – ascending into the air. At these moments – a few saw His glorious appearance – like the sun itself. Most never did for the Devine glory of Jesus' appearance was veiled, covered – in skin in order to serve us. ***Unbelievable!***

3) Jesus laid aside His DEVINE STATUS (*position*)

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

JESUS was and is the KING of kings and LORD of lords. He commands the angel armies, He spoke the mountains into existence, He will judge the nations – for He is King, Ruler over all – and he laid this position, this status aside and humbly took orders – God became a servant who took orders.

It Trump laying aside the presidency to best serve / Kardashians giving up their 100mills - to serve.

Jesus laid aside His glorious position as King and became humbly obedient. He walked in this obedience all the way to His execution. And not just any execution – He was hung on a cross. This was the most humiliating thing that could be done to a man for two reasons:

1. ***Physically Humiliating*** – ***whipped by a cat of nine tails so the blood loss, dehydration, and pain was high, you were hung by nails on a cross so you were in constant pain from nerves in the back, wrists, and legs, and you were hung in a position that forced you to push yourself up for air – causing more pain, you were naked, exposed to the world. On top of all this – as the body's systems began to shut down – you lost all control of all bodily functions – which meant you would poop on yourself.***

Jesus, who breathed life into creation – died a publicly humiliating death – naked and alone.

2. ***Spiritually Humiliating*** – ***The Word of God said you were cursed by God if you were hung on a tree. Gal 3:13 (ESV) ... for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"***

Cursed by God means – you are under God's judgment and punishment – separated from His favor and acceptance. ***On a CROSS, not only were you physically humiliated, but you shamed before man and God as guilty, to be separated from God's favor and acceptance.***

Jesus, God, laid down his divine status/position and took orders like a slave all the way to the most humiliating death ever!

What Jesus did is amazing – even beautiful – but we must know why? *Why would Thor lay down his hammer, Scarlett wear a veil, and Trump his presidency. Humble – but they don't make sense w/out why?*

02. Why Did He serve us?

- * Did He serve just to give us an example of serving? *He is the example. But did he only serve to be an example?*
- * Did He serve so we could know his love? *He did love like no other – but did he only serve to show us His love?*

There are two huge reasons God, Jesus, served us – *that will help the profound beauty of Jesus as servant grow in our soul. First, ...*

- **He served us because it was the only way to rescue us.**

- He could have crushed our rebellion with his power.

- > We were guilty of high treason against the King. We rejected our creator, ruler, God – for our own way.
- > We had sought the love and joy of God we were created for in every place but Him.
- > In our rebellion – He could have justly solved the rebellion of our sin with His power. Punishment!

- But, if He wanted to bring us to be with Him – He would have to serve us with His life and death.

Gal 3:13 (ESV) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

Jesus made everything right (redeemed us) that we had broken in our rebellion by serving us and becoming the curse in our place. He took our rejection, our disfavor, our judgment, our punishment.

**There was no other way. How beautiful and stunning that our Lord did this – but ...
DID JESUS ONLY BECOME A SERVANT – for a moment TO SAVE US – OR IS GOD A SERVANT?**

Did God become a servant just to accomplish something or is God a Servant by nature?

- * Do you believe Jesus, God, is a Servant? *This will affect you receiving, worshipping, following Jesus as God.*
Do you believe that He became a servant and acted like a servant for a moment as a means to an end?
- * Why is this important? It speaks to the core of the gospel.

The gospel teaches us that God's rescue of us is about redemption and restoration of our soul. He forgives us and accepts because of Jesus work. AND, He also restores and transforms us back into His perfect image – what we were created for. He does that by putting His very Spirit in us to live out His character. So, when God asks us to be loving, gentle, truthful, hopeful, peace, - we can because He is all those things. But what about a servant.. Can we live out being a servant if God is not a servant?

If God became something he wasn't and served for a moment in time – just to accomplish an end – even a good end - everything about who He is and His motives gets messy and sounds manipulative.

- Did He serve because He had? He didn't want to but it was what he had to do to rescue?

Know that feeling? You feel like a child being served by frustrated parent. There is no joy to serve – reality there is just contempt for the child. When someone has to serve us we don't feel the love.

Many of us feel like God really doesn't like you – He rescued you – but he doesn't care. He is a rescuer. Is this our God – duty bound, doesn't really like you or love you?

- Did He serve you to rescue you – just to put you in His debt and make you His slave?

Know that feeling? Where you feel like you are only being served because someone wants something – they are manipulating you with their service?

Why do servers wait on you at restaurants? So you will pay them – they call them servers but what a bad name for that job. I waited tables for several years of college and after. I didn't wait to serve you – I served to put you in my debt. Not just about waiters. We do that to our spouse at times. We serve them to get on their good side, we serve them to pay back a debt, we serve them to get affection. We know this feeling. Do you believe God served you just to put you in His debt?

If you believe God became a servant – something he wasn't – just to accomplish an end – you will doubt his motives and wonder if he served you just because he had to or served you just to put you in his debt. **You will believe he doesn't like you or love you. He just served you.**

BUT – if He was a Servant from the beginning of time - He served you because He was and is a servant!

Phil 2:5 (ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, *This is his mind, nature.*

Is 42:1 (ESV) Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. (Is 52:13; Ez 34:23-24; Zech 9:9; Jn 13:1-20; Luke 20:27)

- He served you from the joy of His Servant nature.
- He served you not to get anything from you – but because He is a servant.
- He served you – because there was no other way – He could bring you back to be with Him and give you the greatest thing of all – the joy and love of God's presence.

Jesus did not become a servant as means to an end.

He served because He was and is a Servant. (Look at your beautiful Servant Savior!)

- Jesus could lay down the glory of His Devine abilities – because he was already a Servant.
- Jesus could lay down the glory of His Devine appearance – because he was already a Servant who knew humility.
- Jesus could lay down the glory of His Devine status – because he was already a Servant who knew that only in His humility could He return you to His glorious presence.

Jesus, God served us because He is a Servant. He served because he loved not to get us in debt!

And he laid down his glory – to restore His glory in us and this world.

Do you see the profound beauty of Servant Jesus?

Phil 2:9-11 (ESV) 8 ...he humbled himself ... 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- The result of Jesus being a Servant – He is worshipped above all things!

When we are moved by something profoundly awesome – we are moved!

Seth Curry and Kid Video Greatness captures us because it is great. True Godly greatness captures us and moves us to worship because our Almighty God – is a Servant who stoops to serve us. *This moves us to worship!*

This isn't about forced emotion, fake emotions or even real emotions to worship.

“ Forced worship stinks in the nostrils of God.

Worship that only happens in moments when we are overwhelmed emotionally – will disappear when the emotion leaves.

Worship that is faked so others think we love Jesus – wounds our soul and saddens the heart of God.

Heart-felt worship that is directed at anyone or anything but God – grieves the heart of God for the deceived worshipper because it kills our soul.”

Worship that comes from seeing and believing the beauty of Jesus – will unite our soul with an overjoyed God. – Loui Giglio

Ps 22:3 (ESV) You are holy and enthroned on the praise of your people / Israel.

Ps 16:11 (ESV) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;

Holy God – became a servant, bent His knee first to Father God and then took off His crown and bent His knee to you and I. Amazing. ***Can you see the profound beauty of Servant Jesus?***

If you do – I believe you are being moved to bend your knee to him today to worship Him – and taste joy.

Ask God to move you now to see and worship the beautiful Servant Jesus!

(Good news – because Jesus is still serving you, he will help this prayer even now!)

*** Jesus is interceding at the right hand of God right now for you.** (Rom 8:34, Heb 7:25, 1 Jn 2:1)

*** Jesus gives us His grace at every moment we need it.** (Rom 16:20, 11 Cor 13:14)

*** Jesus calls us friend and is our friend – holy God serves me by being my friend.** . (John 15:15)

Give your soul to Him – to rescue you.

Give your soul to Him in worship. Confess you have run after lesser gods – ask Him to allow you see Him as beautiful Servant King – and worship Him now!

We are going to have an extended time of response to our Servant King Jesus.

- We are going to sing, confess in simple prayer, hear the Word, adore him in prayer, even give of our stuff.
- We are going to give us several opportunities to worship Jesus together.
- Worship does not contain itself to this room. We will be profoundly moved by someone or something – let's ask Him to let that be Jesus alone!