

Form of God | Form of a servant

though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant...

Philippians 2:6-7, ESV

though possessing in Himself, the characteristics, essence, the power and rights of being God...

He did not cling to that power or status for <u>self-</u> <u>serving purposes</u>

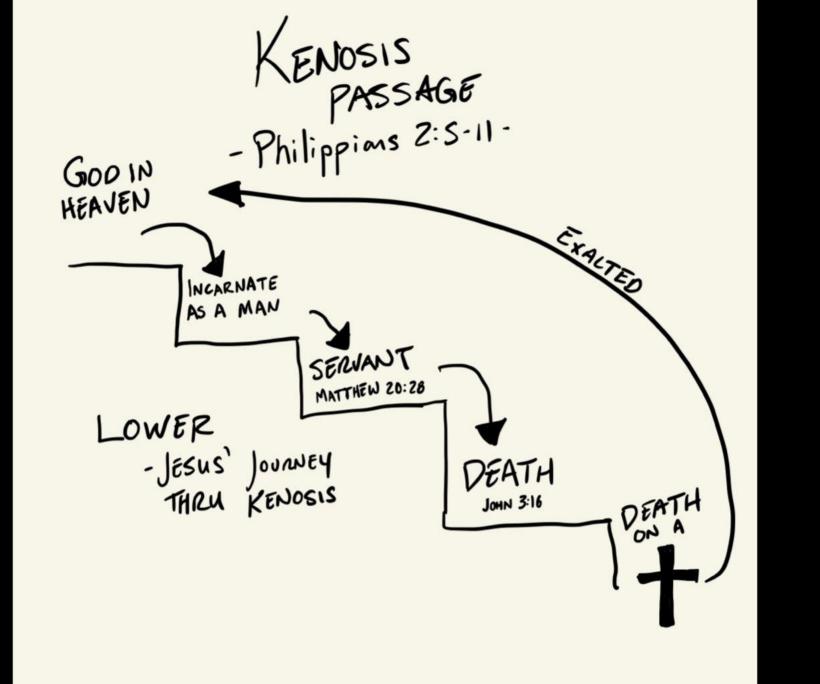
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The Son Humbled Himself | God the Father Exalted the Son



"everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 14:11, ESV

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Death on a Cross | Jesus Christ is Lord

"That the one who was humiliated and crucified by Roman power is declared universally sovereign directly challenges the empire's version of how to achieve world rule.

The story of a self-emptying Lord not only subverts Caesar's claims to universal dominion but also turns the whole Roman value system of what constitutes honor and power on its head." - Dean Fleming

What greater mercy is there than this which ... imposed "the form of a servant" on the Master of the world—such that the Bread itself was hungry, Fullness itself was thirsty, Power itself was made weak, Health itself was wounded, and Life itself was mortal?... What greater mercy than that which presents to us the Creator created; the Master made a slave; the Redeemer sold; the One who exalts, humbled; the One who raised the dead, killed!

- St. Augustine (Sermon 207)

When we carry a ladder rather than a cross, we become servants of death. When we climb for prestige, power, or money, we become servants of death. However, when we seek to imitate the crucified one, we become servants of life.

- JR Woodward, The Scandal of Leadership

Getting Close to Children

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Hidden Giving / Hidden Service

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Elevating others, talking little about yourself

- 1. Which of the contrasts in the Christ-poem stood out to you the most, and why?
- 2. What other practices of humility that David did not mention can you think of?
- 3. How do we manage the tension of following the descending way of Christ, and yet doing well in our jobs (with the possibility of promotions)?
- 4. What is the internal resistance when it comes to following the way of our self-emptying, descending Lord instead of the self-exulting, self-promoting culture?